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Schiller's resignation highlights Brandt's economic problems

The resignation of "Super-Minister" Karl Schiller could hardly have come at a more inopportune moment for the Federal government, which is preparing for a tough general election campaign.

Together with Chancellor Willy Brandt Dr Schiller was one of the outstanding personalities in the Social and Free Democratic Cabinet and the Opposition will jump at the opportunity of making out the resignation of an advocate of the free market economy to be the consequence of a general failure of the coalition government's economic policies.

The government's inability in these foreseeable circumstances to persuade the man who combined the posts of Economic Affairs and Finance Ministers to stay at the economic helm until the projected general election would seem to be an indication of the gravity of tension within the administration's ranks.

In the course of the current legislative period three Ministers and a number of State Secretaries, not to mention turncoat MPs, have fallen by the wayside. There are almost bound to the campaign allegations that Chancellor Brandt is not the leader he is made out to be.

They would be a little less wide of the mark were they to be levelled at Karl Schiller. An economics professor who still feels himself to be more of an academic than a politician, Dr Schiller is reputed to be a dab hand at making enemies.

In the 1969 general election campaign he was one of the Social Democrats' standard-bearers, having served a successful term at the Economic Affairs Ministry in the coalition with the Christian Democrats. Of late he has been increasingly isolated, finally enjoying the support of Chancellor Brandt alone.

His prospects of retaining the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the event of a Social and Free Democratic coalition winning the forthcoming elections were no longer rated particularly bright.

Despite undoubted economic policy successes Dr Schiller's reputation among the general public has declined as prices have spiralled regardless of his efforts and forecasts. In all fairness one must concede that the current inflation has been partly imported from abroad, though.

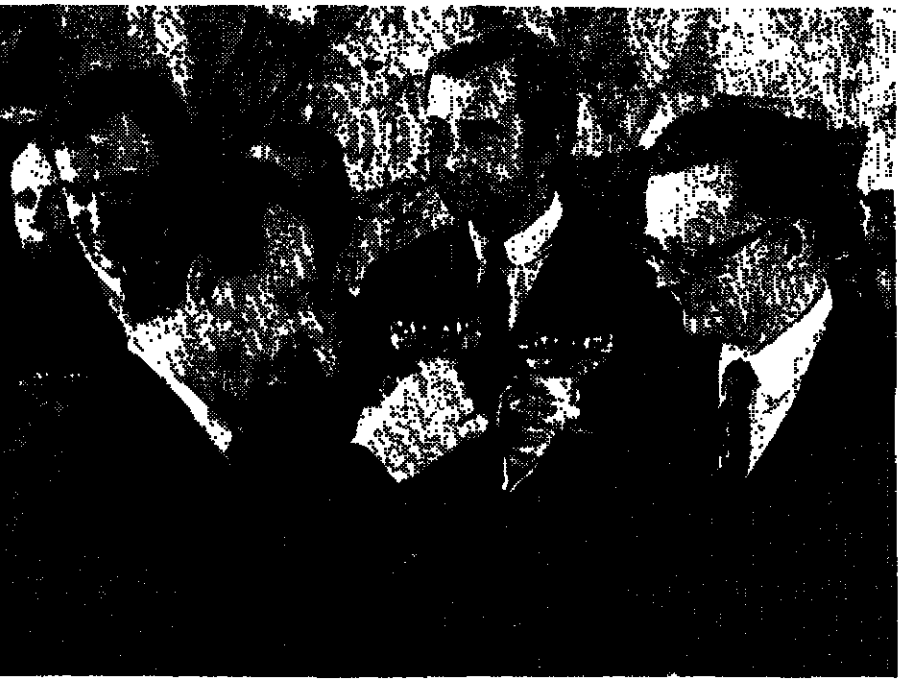
Karl Schiller suffered further defeats at the hands of the Cabinet on the issue of taxation reform and the controversial 1972 budget estimates, Super-Minister Schiller having chosen to release details of expenditure cuts to the Press before informing his Cabinet colleagues.

His resignation on account of exchange control measures decided on by the Cabinet against his opposing vote was a logical step for an advocate of laissez faire policies. A supporter of free market economy could hardly fail to view the government's emergency measures as an ominous step in the direction of a planned economy.

No less a man than Professor Ludwig Erhard, the currency reformer of 1948 and the reputed mastermind behind the economic miracle of post-war economic

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Just before he resigned as Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Professor Karl Schiller (right) signed with Russian Foreign Trade Minister Nikolai Patolichev a trade agreement on 5 July 1972. State Secretary at the Economic Affairs Ministry Detlev Rohwedder looks on as the two Ministers toast the success of the trade negotiations. (Photo: dpa)

Chancellor Brandt mends the breach until December elections

How much of a stopgap is the agreement reached by coalition partners Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel to keep the Bonn government going until the autumn elections following the resignation of "Super-Minister" Karl Schiller?

Is it enough to saddle the one Minister, Lauritz Lauritzen (Housing) with the additional burden of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications and to reshuffle two others, Helmut Schmidt and Georg Leber?

At first glance the reshuffle may appear to be a makeshift affair but in reality it corresponds to the long-harboured ambitions of all concerned.

Helmut Schmidt was dissatisfied at the Defence Ministry, anxious to get back to day-to-day politics, with which the Bundeswehr has little to do.

Karl Schiller's portmanteau Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance had long been the apple of Schmidt's eye and the post he felt to be the right framework for his energy and ambition. This is why he was not entirely unconnected with Schiller's resignation.

Georg Leber was equally anxious to part company with the unpopular Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications. The Ministry of Defence was, conveniently enough, more what he had in mind.

These two reshuffles are thus anything but makeshift arrangements. After the general election, always assuming that the Social and Free Democrats emerge victorious, both men could well retain the Ministries they have just taken over.

The stopgap nature of the changes is not so much the fact of their having taken place but the juncture at which the change has come. The government itself is in a makeshift position, midway between parliamentary stalemate and fresh elections.

The solution reached is doubtless the best possible in the circumstances. As it is in any case only a matter of summoning all the resources at the parties' command in preparation for the election campaign (there can be hardly much of government in the circumstances) the reshuffle should be effective enough.

Helmut Schmidt, a popular figure, has lent his personal popularity and his command of words to the longsuffering Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. The Opposition will find him a tough nut to crack. *Alfons Schiele*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 July 1972)

Helmut Schmidt left his mark on the Bundeswehr

Helmut Schmidt was Defence Minister for less than three years yet the first Social Democrat at the Defence Ministry helm has effective decisive changes in the Bundeswehr since 21 October 1969.

The main lines of his work were prefigured by the integration of the armed forces in the Atlantic alliance, yet within this fairly narrow leeway the Minister showed ways in which the army can be cured of its chronic troubles, shortage of personnel and self-pity.

The armed forces have gained in attractiveness in terms of what the soldier is offered, albeit an expensive business. The groundwork has been laid for a model educational system and the army has kept in tune with society as a whole.

Schmidt set new standards. National service was cut by three months and made more just. Defence policies have grown more transparent for the general public, losing at least part of the character of a secret science.

The outward expression of this reform policy has been the defence White Papers (a combination of reports on what has been achieved and targets for the future) and a succession of specialist reports outlining alternatives to the current conditions under which the armed forces have to work, involving such crucial sectors as personnel and defence structure and arms organisation.

This, however, was the point at which the shortcomings of the Schmidt era became apparent. Helmut Schmidt and his ADC Ernst Wolf Mommsen fought many a battle against the arms lobby but were in the event unable to keep the costs of armaments from spiralling.

On taking over at the Defence Ministry Helmut Schmidt already enjoyed something of a reputation as a strategy theorist. Yet he has never attacked the contradictory Nato military strategy for this country.

A pragmatist, he banked on Nato's policy of political detente, which made the term defence appear more convincing. This in its turn made military reform easier and with it life easier for the army as a whole.

A Bundeswehr built up by Christian Democratic Defence Ministers has been brought up to date by a Social Democrat.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 July 1972)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Brezhnev adopts a more flexible political line

France's powerful Communist Party has entered into an alliance with the Socialists. In Chile the Communists share the reins of government with Socialist Allende and representatives of other left-wing parties. The Swedish Communists recently saved Social Democratic Premier Olof Palme's minority government's parliamentary bacon by voting for the government in a crucial division resulting from radical taxation policies.

At its recent Berlin conference a Soviet trade union official offered this country's Trades Union Confederation cooperation in the interest of the working class.

This and other Communist attempts at rapprochement with the non-Communist Left in Western countries convey the impression that popular front policies are currently favoured by political leaders in Moscow, who must at least approve of and coordinate tactical moves of this kind.

This approach by Western Communist Parties would, when all is said and done, tally with Mr Brezhnev's policy of coexistence with the Federal Republic of Germany, his more tolerant attitude

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towards neutral countries such as Austria and Finland and the cessation of past Soviet attempts to intervene and forestall expansion of the European Economic Community.

Can it be true to say that after Moscow's power politics at the time of the invasion of Czechoslovakia, a move that upset even Communist leaders in Rumania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union is now peddling a soft line in dealings with countries that appear willing to cooperate in one way or another?

A similar interpretation can be made of a number of goings-on in Soviet home affairs, although, of course, they are limited to personnel reshuffles.

One such instance is the wing-clipping of Ukrainian Party leader Pyotr Shelest, who has been replaced as Party leader of the second-largest Soviet republic by Vladimir Shcherbitski, reputedly a henchman of General Secretary Brezhnev.

Shelest is still a member of the Moscow politbureau but no longer has a power base of his own. In 1967 he was one of the most vehement opponents of the Prague reformers, whose views were admittedly spreading from Slovakia to the neighbouring Ukraine, where protest meetings were held at the universities of Kiev and Kharkov.

Shelest's dismissal must have come rather suddenly, since a successor to the post of Ukrainian Premier, which he also held, has still to be appointed.

As recently as last year Shelest published articles in the Party press that clearly diverged from the programmatic foreign policy addresses of Leonid Brezhnev in their assessment of the international situation.

Observers rate not only the relegation of Shelest but also the promotion of theoretician Boris Ponomaryov to the politbureau a change that is likely to make it easier for Mr Brezhnev to take undoctrinaire foreign policy decisions.

An official who has on more than one occasion been involved in international negotiations, Ponomaryov has repeatedly come up with ideological formulas to back up pragmatic decisions after the event.

There are doubtless international reasons why Moscow's softer line has been more in evidence in relations with the West than in Eastern Bloc domestic policies.

Even so, President Tito was welcomed again as an old friend in the Kremlin and unfriendly gestures towards Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania have been conspicuous by their absence for some time. There might even be a grain of truth in rumours to the effect that the Rumanian leader will be welcomed in Moscow before long too despite foreign policy views that continue to differ from those of the Soviet Union.

Difficulties that have arisen of late in the Eastern Bloc are, according to Moscow, economic. A sudden summons of Polish Premier Jaroszewicz to consult with Soviet Premier Kosygin was, for instance, claimed to be in connection with forthcoming Comecon resolutions.

This softer note in Moscow's behaviour has, of course, nothing to do with any concessions on fundamentals. Soviet central committee member Tsagladin, who occasionally comments as Leonid Brezhnev's mouthpiece, recently noted in *New Times*, the Moscow journal, that "loyalty to principles" must not lead to "undifferentiated tactics" towards foreign countries.

Tsagladin would appear to be aiming at critics within the Party when he opposes "circles" that continually call for a tough response to imperialist advances. He notes that the Chinese too have of late toed the line of coexistence and that Soviet tactics must take the prevailing circumstances into account.

This is as much as to say that the popular front approach is not to be adopted uniformly in all non-communist countries. The President of the Soviet Union's major counterpart, the United States, is not a left-winger but a decided conservative.

Mr Brezhnev and his advisers well realise that the cordial reception accorded to Mr Nixon in Moscow will have aided the US President in his forthcoming election campaign.

But for negotiations on such tough topics as arms limitations and the delimitation of spheres of influence in, say, South-East Asia experienced Soviet foreign policymakers prefer a man who appears to them to represent capitalist interests rather than a politician who would prefer to take arms against the prevailing social set-up of the West.

Between the lines of Soviet press commentaries on America Moscow can clearly be read to expect Mr Nixon to secure re-election in November and is thus showing little interest in his opponents. This being the case, the Communists are not particularly interested in popular front policies in the United States.

This, needless to say, is part and parcel of the "differentiated tactics" on international issues that Mr Brezhnev's media men advocate. *Immanuel Birnbaum*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 July 1972)

Schiller's resignation

Continued from page 1

reconstruction, congratulated Karl Schiller from the Opposition benches for standing his ground in a way he had not always done in past disagreements with the Cabinet.

Dr Schiller had of late threatened to resign so often that even in the final crisis people wondered whether he really meant it this time. His final days in office were gratifyingly marked by state receptions for President Pompidou and Finance Minister Giscard d'Estaing of France and Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Nikolai Patolichev.

His resignation could well cost the Social Democrats a good many votes. Schiller enjoyed the confidence of wide sectors of management and the middle classes.

It was thus of paramount importance for Chancellor Willy Brandt that Karl Schiller's successor until the dissolution of the present Bundestag should be a man in whom the general public felt similar confidence.

A problematic aspect of the choice of a successor was that Helmut Schmidt, the logical choice, preferred to retrain control of both Ministries, Finance and Economic Affairs, a dual appointment held by Schiller since the resignation of Finance Minister Alex Möller.

It would perhaps have been more to the point to share out the responsibility again, particularly as the two Ministries are naturally, as it were, at loggetheads and Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of the Free Democrats could have taken over the Ministry of Finance.

But the general election is looming large for both coalition parties and Karl Schiller's resignation has certainly laid the groundwork of the forthcoming election campaign.

The major issue will not be the government's much-disputed *Ostpolitik*, which is beginning to show initial results, but economic affairs and financial policies.

Economic affairs and finance could well prove to be the Social and Free Democratic coalition's Achilles heel.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 7 July 1972)

Vatican recognises Oder-Neisse line

The Vatican finally decided, on 28 June, to officially sanction developments with which it was first confronted 27 years ago.

The appointment of the provisional apostolic administrators in the former German Eastern territories as regular Polish bishops may have come as a bitter disappointment to expellees and refugees in this country but the Vatican is also responsible for some eight and a half million Polish Catholics who live in the territories in question.

Viewed in this light the Vatican's decision is merely an administrative move acknowledging a de facto situation in international law that has obtained for more than twenty years.

As the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church the Vatican must have the right to arrange its administration in accordance with the requirements of the faithful. Polish Catholics, when all is said and done, have also retained their loyalty to the Church of Rome and are equally deserving of recognition.

But this is only scratching the surface of the matter. The Vatican ruling can be seen to have substantially strengthened the domestic position of Poland's Catholics, which is saying something.

The ruling may come as an unpleasant surprise for Christian Democrats in this country but the Vatican has at long last ensured that it cannot be dragged into domestic squabbles.

This is something Church leaders in this country would do well to bear in mind, particularly in view of the fact that the Vatican chose not to consult them before taking its decision. *Peter Stiwe*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 29 June 1972)

Bonn and Prague pause for thought

The fifth round of exploratory talks between Bonn and Prague recently foundered on the unbridgeable differences of opinion in assessing the 1938 Munich Agreement.

State Secretary Paul Frank, this country's disappointed Foreign Office negotiator, noted that on all five occasions attempts had been made to reach a compromise that seemed to him, in view of the nature of the problem, to be an impossibility in the first place.

This is a reference to the hard core difference of opinion that might seem to the outsider to be no more than an incomprehensibly dogmatic dispute over a few words.

In point of fact the controversy is not attributable to either ill will or obstinacy on the part of the other side — even though, failing better explanations, people of the Federal Republic and Czechoslovakia may espouse this view.

Both Bonn and Prague have good reasons for upholding their respective viewpoints, reasons that transcend political considerations. Reparations and legal aspects of the status of Sudeten Germans can be regulated, but in demanding that the Munich Agreement be declared null and void from the word go the Czechs are, in fact, demanding that Czechoslovakia's frontiers be considered to have been indisputable all along and even before the country was set up after the First World War.

These frontiers were certainly questioned in Munich without a Czech delegation even being in attendance and the Czechs may well be particularly touchy on this point in view of the current Soviet occupation of the country, though of course the Soviet Union has good reasons of its own for demanding the Munich Agreement be declared null and void from the start.

Hitler's blackmail policy was not the sole forerunner of Munich; the Sudeten Germans were subject to discrimination in the emerging Bohemian state too.

There are other reasons why Bonn ought to go no further than to merely condemn the Munich Agreement and declare it to have been null and void at some stage or other that need not be specified if Prague is entirely dissatisfied with this country's suggestion that the date of the German invasion of the rest of Czechoslovakia be taken as the deadline. An international agreement does not become invalid after the event merely because it was unjust or imposed by force. Were this to be an axiom of international law the greater part of contemporary history would have to be rewritten.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 4 July 1972)

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■ DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Brandt-Scheel government's sights set too high

If, as expected, general elections are held in late November or early December there will be a short working period for the Federal Republic 6th Bundestag after the summer recess. But this is hardly likely to serve any useful purpose except for allowing the parties to sweep out their cupboards.

Only a few Bills that have got way behind schedule could be dealt with in such a short period, such as the final approval of the salary emoluments that have been paid since the beginning of the year anyway and the renewed postponement of rent decontrol in the remaining "white zones", Berlin, Hamburg and Munich.

Thus now is the time to draw up the balance sheet of the sixth legislative period of the Bundestag with regard to domestic affairs. This is the first time a Bundestag has sat for three instead of the normal four years, assuming of course that the Bundestag is dissolved prematurely. But this is not the only reason why any number of reform ruins dot the landscape.

A great number of reforms were pushed through, but an even greater number fell by the wayside.

This figures pan out thus: Of 502 Bills presented to the Bundestag 320 were passed. Most of these are now law, but a smaller number are awaiting ratification by the Bundesrat. The government replied to twenty major questions and 523 minor ones. At no less than eighty public hearings important reforms presented to sub-committees were discussed.

But more important than these figures is a comparison between the reform proposals mentioned by Willy Brandt in his statement of government policy after the election victory on 28 October 1969 and on later occasions, and the actual achievements of the SPD/FDP coalition, which prided itself of being an alliance devoted to domestic reforms.

On the credit side there are a number of important social welfare measures that must be mentioned. Legal health insurance was made available to all employees and the employer's contribution introduced. Pensions for the war wounded were improved greatly, the rights of employees' representatives were redrawn in the new labour-management relations act giving them greater powers and the accumulation of capital wealth scheme was improved if not perfected by amendments to the "312-Mark law".

Successes were also scored in the realms of town and country planning and construction. The SPD/FDP can point to their construction promotion legislation, their programme for the social welfare housing scheme, improvements in the rent act and building finance legislation.

As far as defence policy, which is more a matter of the politics of the Alliance than of domestic policy, is concerned some of the many reform measures

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proposed in the "white book" were put into action. The most important of these was the reduction in the conscription period from eighteen to fifteen months, the new armed forces discipline regulations and the improvements to the alternative service schemes for conscientious objectors.

In addition to this many reforms in law and order were carried out, a great number being rushed through in the last days before the recess. There are new laws of arrest, arms regulations and amendments to the laws regarding the constitution and the national borders. Finally it was possible to complete the first stages of the environmental protection and tax reform acts.

That, as far as major reforms are concerned, is about the end of the positive side. The main part of tax reform, realignment of income tax and corporation tax, has not been completed.

The promised whittling away of the supplementary levy on income tax (Ergänzungsabgabe) and the promised doubling of the initial amount allowed tax-free have had to be shelved. Instead of tax cuts there have been increases in indirect taxes — petrol, tobacco and spirits taxes.

As important if not more so are the law reforms that have come to a dead-end, for instance the new divorce laws, amendments to abortion law, the speeding up of the processes of law bringing civil and criminal cases to court with greater alacrity and the amendments to limited-company (GmbH) law.

Minister of Justice Gerhard Jahn and his FDP colleague at the head of the Ministry of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher can sympathise with each other. Genscher certainly did his record some good in recent weeks by smashing the Baader-Meinhof gang, but the list of reforms he introduced and which "got away" is long.

Among them were the amendments to environmental protection laws concerning water conservation, emission of noxious substances and nature conservation, then the reform of registration laws, standardisation of the rights of civil servants, administrative procedure laws, and the general laws concerning the privileges of the press.

Important educational reforms also got lost along the way. There was the general legislation for universities and the overall education laws.

This comparison of successes and failures among the government's reform plans is not complete. But it does show clearly that in the ecstasy of coming to power for the first time the Social Democrats and Free Democrats did bite off more than they could chew when they made their reform proposals and promises. Even if they had not lost their majority in the Bundestag and had been able to continue in office for a fourth year they would not have been able to make up all the lost ground.

It would almost certainly have been better to concentrate their administrative forces rather than dissipating them as they did. Fewer reforms with more making the grade would, in retrospect, have been a better policy. Many statements made by Brandt and Scheel and their followers show that they too have come to recognise this fact.

There are two further reasons why the programme of reforms Brandt and Scheel set themselves failed to materialise. Firstly the more costly reforms were hamstrung by the depreciation in the value of the Mark, a development that was largely affected by outside factors beyond the control of the Federal Republic government.

Secondly there were so many differences of opinion between SPD and FDP and in the actual parties that friction caused a great deal of erosion. It was the first time that Social Democrats and Free Democrats had worked together at government level. This was something that two parties, once so far apart in the political spectrum, had to grow used to, and that took time.

The essential rapprochement of the two parties set off centrifugal forces spinning off the SPD left and the FDP right. This interfered with many reform proposals and finally led to the loss of the parliamentary majority.

Heinzgünter Klein

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 July 1972)

CDU membership

Rainer Barzel, the Chairman of the CDU, told a group from his party in Bonn that after all the "dead wood" had been removed from the party files this year's membership figures should reach 400,000.

This was the immediate aim of the CDU leader, but his long-term aim was that every member should on average sign up one new member. Barzel said: "If we can achieve this we will outnumber the Social Democrats."

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 28 June 1972)

FDP leaders favour SPD/FDP coaltion

FDP General Secretary Karl-Hermann Flach has stressed that if the FDP does badly at the next general elections it would be the end of the coalition with the SPD. "Willy Brandt will never be Chancellor unless Walter Scheel is Vice-Chancellor."

In an interview with Deutschlandfunk Radio Flach said that at its extraordinary party meeting in October the FDP would come out clearly in favour of a continuation of the SPD/FDP coalition. He stated that he felt confident his party would attract more votes than in 1969.

Despite sticking to the coalition in principle the FDP would in the forthcoming campaign make every effort to keep the lines of demarcation between itself and the SPD clear-cut. The FDP "has other overall aims and intentions" than the SPD.

Two points on which the parties diverge, according to Herr Flach are taxation policy and the need to encourage productivity. The FDP would, he added, keep a watchful eye to ensure that economic initiatives were not allowed to flag.

Law reform policies and education policies of the FDP go further than those put forward by the Social Democrats. On specific point on which the FDP goes further is the reform of paragraph 218, the abortion law. *Hans Kepper*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 June 1972)

Voters ready to vote

Citizens of the Federal Republic are now more prepared for the eventuality of new elections, according to a recently published report by the Allensbach Demoscopic Institute. In June 58 per cent of the population said they were ready to go to the polls, as opposed to only 42 per cent in May.

In June 24 per cent of those questioned said the Federal Republic government should continue in Bonn, whereas in May 41 per cent said they favoured the continued rule of the SPD/FDP coalition.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 30 June 1972)

Party youth leaders and the forthcoming elections

Chairmen of the youth organisations of the three major Federal Republic political parties have announced that in the event of premature elections being held they will stage their own election campaign.

Their readiness or otherwise to accept the candidates put up by their parties is, on the other hand, by no means unanimous, a point which was made clearly at the state press conference in Hamburg, when Wolfgang Roth, the national Chairman of the Young Socialists, Bernd Neumann, the deputy national Chairman of the *Junge Union* (young CDU/CSU followers) and Heiner Bremer, the head of the Young (Free) Democrats were asked for their views on the possibility of elections being held a year early.

"The Young Socialists don't get so many members in the Bundestag", Wolfgang Roth admitted. But he promised: "We will support the parent party in its election campaign in all aspects. This marks us off from the Young Democrats."

The young FDP supporters' Chairman Heiner Bremer agreed with him: "Solidarity can go too far. If our members are expected to support the party candidates come what may they are entitled to know whether these candidates are reliable."

It is, said Bremer, only candidates who put their solidarity behind the party above all other considerations who are reliable. In cases where a candidate does not conform to the ideas the Young Democrats hold dear they will not wage a campaign against him, but they will withdraw their support from him and concentrate on other candidates who fit more into their scheme of things.

This press conference made it clear that all three youth organisations are showing greater self-confidence in all their dealings with the parent party.

Bernd Neumann criticises efforts to form an alliance with the Deutsche Union. He said: "This would not help the CDU and would only damage the party's reputation. Furthermore we should not overestimate the influence of the Deutsche Union." Neumann would also like to see the role of the CSU, the CDU's sister party in Bavaria, regarded in relative terms. "We must bring it home to the CSU far more often which is the stronger partner!"

"Juso" leader Wolfgang Roth said: "There should be a filtration process of SPD candidates by means of questionnaires. Anyone who supports the war in Vietnam cannot expect the vote of a Young Socialist. Similarly we cannot support candidates who subscribe to the general values of the government, but who have not sworn allegiance to the programme drawn up at the SPD party-political conference — Conrad Ahlers, for example."

He added: "We cannot be regarded as a biological supply service for the SPD." Roth has his own ideas about the campaign to catch the votes with emphasis on preventing a move towards the right.

But in its campaign the *Junge Union* intends to adhere to a rigid programme. Vice-Chairman Neumann said with an air of anxiety: "In the next legislative period there will be more left-wingers in the Bundestag riding on the SPD and FDP bandwagons. If they once again achieve a majority we will see a development that no longer corresponds to our idea of parliamentary democracy coupled with a free enterprise economy."

Wolfgang Roth countered: "We take Basic Law very seriously. Anyone who does not take it seriously is a sitting duck and people do tend to get hot under the collar." Basic Law, he added, does permit other forms of economy than the social-welfare free enterprise system.

(Die Welt, 23 June 1972)

■ THE PRESS

West Berlin's *Telegraf* closes down

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Why must this paper die? " read the bitter headline of the two left-wing Berlin newspapers *Telegraf* and *Nachtdepesche* on 29 June. Less than 24 hours previously the two newspapers had received a telephone call from Bonn stating that they had to close down on 30 June.

The two newspapers were owned by the Social Democratic holding company, Deutsche Verlags- und Druck previously known as Konzentrations GmbH. One of the concern's partners is Social Democrat Treasurer Alfred Nau.

Nau exaplined that the closure was due to the losses incurred by *Telegraf* and *Nachdepesche*. "We can no longer afford it," Nau added. The two newspapers have been ailing for more than ten years. Rationalisation measures were introduced and the two papers were largely merged but all attempts to lead to a recovery failed.

The Berlin Senate granted subsidies of two and a half million Marks last year but even this was of no help. Circulation dropped – only 110,000 copies were sold of every issue. Advertising revenue left a lot to be desired. Debts increased – insiders speak of sixteen million Marks.

This development can be attributed to the difficulties facing newspapers in Berlin. More papers are looking for a reader in Berlin than in any other city in the Federal Republic.

Axel Springer's papers have high circulations *Berliner Morgenpost* sells 200,000 copies an issue, *BZ* 320,000 copies, the Berlin edition of *Die Welt* has a circulation of eighteen thousand and *Bild* sells 120,000 copies.

There are also *Tagesspiegel* with a circulation of 93,000, *Abend* with sales totalling sixty thousand copies an issue and *Spandauer Volksblatt* which sells 22,000 copies.

Whatever people may think of *Telegraf*, its disappearance is a shock. The newspaper was part of post-war Berlin. It first appeared on 22 March 1946 with the permission of the British. Circulation at first totalled 150,000.

To give the paper greater weigth in its fight against Communism, editor-in-chief Arno Scholz appointed former Reichstag President Paul Löbe co-editor. The *Telegraf-Wochenspiegel* was regularly smuggled to the German Democratic Republic until the Berlin Wall was built in 1961. It was then the paper started its decline and circulation figures gradually dropped from the over-250,000 level reached during its heyday.

Scholz fought for his paper. He sought support from the Social Democrats and checked the decline a little. But everything had its limits and Arno Scholz died last year.

The Thursday issue of *Telegraf* described what happened on Wednesday: "The sudden and unexpected news came yesterday that *Telegraf* and *Nachtdepesche* would appear for the last time on 30 June."

Indignation was felt and expressed at a special staff meeting held in the Grunewald offices. The mood of the meeting can be summed up by a number of quotes: "We are always told about economic necessities but what is that compared with human and social necessities? " one employee asked.

"What we have experienced here is reminiscent of the worst capitalist methods," complained another while a third wondered: "Are we really employed by the SPD? " "Not even a redundancy scheme has been worked out," complained another employee. *Liselotte Müller*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 June 1972)


Telegraf Aus!

Zum Schweigen verurteilt

The *Telegraf's* last front page

Press reform Bill gives deskmen new rights

An editor-in-chief cannot be dismi[ssed] in future if three quarters of [the] members of the editorial body set up [to] replace him oppose the decision, acc[ord]ing to the Press Reform Bill drawn up [by] Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietr[ich] Genscher. But for the most part edi[torial] rights continue to be restricted.

Deskmen opposed to the appoint[ment] of a new editor-in-chief, to the sale of [the] newspaper or to any other alter[ations] affecting editorial staff will only ha[ve the] right to break their contract bef[ore it] legally expires. Their pay will con[tinue] for a short time.

Political observers in Bonn do [not] believe that the Bill will reach Cab[inet] stage this autumn. An Interior Minis[try] spokesman stated that work on the [Bill] would not be affected by discuss[ions] about new elections.

But as both publishers and journalis[ts] the two groups affected by the Bill – [are] to be allowed to have their say, [it is] expected that progress will be slow.

The Bill will probably meet the [resis]tance of the publishers and journa[lists'] associations affected. Controversy s[ur]rounds in particular the ruling on "in[ter]nal press freedom", the division of p[ow]ers between publishers and edit[orial] staffs.

As the Bill stands at present, [a] publisher is obliged to record in wri[ting] the general journalistic standpoint [of his] paper. The editor-in-chief and de[skmen] are to be notified in good time of [any] changes and their views are to be he[ard].

But any change in the basic position [of] a newspaper will take effect three mo[nths] after notification even if the edit[orial] staff objects.

Deskmen opposed to this change ha[ve] the right to resign as they cannot b[e] expected to continue their work und[er] different conditions. They will be able [to] draw their salary until three months af[ter] the time limit set for resignations [or] dismissals.

Editor-in-chief and editorial staff a[re] also be informed and consulted b[y]...

Continued on page 6

Travel magazine celebrates 25th anniversary

Many magazines have faded since the end of the Second World War – *Atlantis, Magnum, Epoca* or *Das Schönste* for example, but one periodical has lasted the course so well that it is this year celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Merian, the travel magazine featuring a different town or region in every issue, was launched in Würzburg when the debris was still underfoot. The present circulation amounts to over 230,000 and 160,000 of its readers are regular subscribers.

Merian was based on an idea by the most important of the Merian family, Matthäus the Elder, who once attempted to describe the destruction of cities during the Thirty Years War.

There are bound to be completely different results when the same venture is attempted in ages that are three hundred years apart but *Merian* magazine cannot depart that far from the original idea.

The original idea of sketching a genuine picture of the city was almost watered down by the more literary plans of the first editor that publisher Kurt Ganske called in. But Ganske was a real publisher. He knew exactly what he wanted. This was how the format of the various issues of the *Merian* magazine was born.

Merian – 38 million copies have now been sold – is meant to illustrate the town as a camera would see it as well as turning the spotlight on the daily life of the inhabitants. It was not meant to be a description of the aesthetic qualities of a town, nor was it meant to be the normal-type travel-guide.

Writers of the highest standard have contributed to Merian. It is not just the experts who have their say. The list includes Jean Cocteau, Christoph Frey, Hans Carossa, W.H. Auden, Rolf Liebermann, Henry de Montherlant and Carl Zuckmayer.

To this extent the idea of the first editor, Dr Leippe, has indeed been put into practice. But the contributions do not move on an abstract or intellectual level – instead they are always firmly anchored in the everyday life of a town.

This illustrates the phenomenon of a periodical being able to exist without

DIE WELT

literary or avant-garde experimentation, though not without writers. Each issue encourages the reader to make the most of his leisure time and not look on towns as business and industrial centres alone.

Of course the basic idea of making a record of towns and cities has been extended in the 25 years of the magazine's existence. Description was first limited to the changes caused by the war. But the towns continued to change at an alarming rate after their reconstruction. It was therefore only sensible to repeat the first issue of 1948 and publish a new issue devoted to Würzburg in 1972.

The requirements of the reader also changed. The need to catch up on foreign travel had gradually built up and it was given full vent. Descriptions of the narrow home sphere were soon replaced by description of foreign climes. Three hundred titles have been issued so far but the world has still not been completely covered and new information is being found every day. Few trevellers today can imagine going to foreign parts, or even parts they may not know too well, without first buying the appropriate issue of *Merian*. The old Merian once had such great success that his primitive, though remarkably authentic drawings were continued for a number of years and still prove of use centuries later.

Erik G. Wickenburg

(Die Welt, 29 June 1972)



The Merian edition dealing with Würzburg

■ TRADE UNIONS

Unionists play politics at Berlin congress

Frankfurter Allgemeine

This year's trades union congress in Berlin was probably one of the most peaceable since the War. This was not necessarily to its detriment since hectic ideological wrangling tends to create a noisy foreground and whip up emotions to such an extent that worthwhile ideas may be lost along the way.

The question is, was the calm nature of the ninth DGB congress a sign that newer, more profound thoughts are coming to the fore in the trade union movement or rather that no one had a particular stand to take about the future organisation of unions and union business.

There are two major tasks for the DGB to get to grips with in the near future. Firstly organisational reform and secondly a basic programme of action for settling the position of the unions in West Germany's democratic society and particularly in the present economic setup.

The solution to the first problem is bound to be preceded by any number of set-to's, quarrels and attempts by individual organisations to guarantee they can hold what they have got. On this score there was little to be heard in Berlin that was new in any way.

The second question is a different kettle of fish. A policy programme was approved by the DGB assembly, it is true, and this set short-term aims. But a number of the tasks the DGB has set itself in this campaign, together with the overwhelming majority in favour of re-electing Heinz Oskar Vetter Chairman, show clearly once again the course that the unions are considering steering.

There would seem to be four pillars supporting the new union philosophy. Firstly there should be far-reaching and increasing participation of the work force in running businesses and in general, overall economic and social spheres with councils and special commissions (one on environmental protection, for instance) manned on an equal footing and leading to an institutionalising influence on legislators.

Then there is the question of accumulation of capital to be arranged via a central fund administered by the unions, but leaving manipulation and controls to the flow of capital and thus to the economy.

Thirdly comes the unions' idea of an economic system that would to a certain extent alter the quality of the free enterprise economy with the aid of carefully constructed blocs of companies working for the public's economic interests and controlled by the trades unions.

Finally there are the traditional tasks of unionists in the collective bargaining wage negotiation system, where the unions can apply pressure to influence the division of the national income in a way that no other group is able to do.

These pillars would carry an edifice of union power to which no other concentration of power within this State could hold a candle.

While democracy and the free enterprise economy that is the essence of democracy in the economic sphere are based on a decentralisation of power and powers of decision-making these plans are heading off in the exactly opposite direction.

On the other hand the unions reject out of hand any suggestion that their own position should be controlled. The unions' renewed protests against Concerted Action, in which they are by no means subjected to outside influences but are simply confronted with arguments of economic reason and could therefore be put on an "intellectual lead", show their inconsistent attitude towards power. These dual standards are shown up even more clearly in this statement by Chairman Vetter in the speech he made on basic principles: "We have not the slightest intention of taking political responsability away from the political parties. But we have to make clear that the interests of workers in our unions must be given full consideration by the State in the process of forming the public will." In other words the unions are saying that the factor of their power as unions means their wishes must be fulfilled, but political parties have to bear the responsibility for actions taken!

Anyone who saw the attempts of the SPD and FDP at the Berlin congress to be chummy will have little difficulty in foreseeing how every game of fonnation of public will will look in practice.

Economic policy always presents a set of hurdles to be negotiated by the unions in their attempts at a new self-assertion. Once again the intention is to take the line of least resistance. Without, of course, going as far as a communist-style planned economy the intention is to move away from free enterprise. The solution is somewhere in the middle of the road so that it smacks of freedom.

In this case *Gemeinwirtschaft* (collective economy) obviously means, to judge from the words of the DGB Chairman, an economic order in which the trades unions decide which requirements are social and therefore should be carried out with priority by collective economy companies. (Collective economy, projected in Germany about 1914, meant that production, distribution and consumption were not to be left to the free play of market forces, but were to be guided by the community for the common weal.)

This more than anything else shows the concept of expansion cherished by the unions. They deny they want to become a State within a State, but they can hardly conceal the fact that they want to make their imprint firmly upon this State.

On the credit side the unions are tending to put increasing pressure on the radicals, and they believe that their new concepts are an important part of the defence mechanisms. But they should not overlook the possibility that they could have erred in their economic and social concepts and that particularly in the case of economic policies errors can be fatal for us all.

Free unions require a free economy. They should not flirt with the all-powerful or they could find themselves stifled.

Ernst-Günther Vetter

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 June 1972)



Heinz Oskar Vetter, DGB Chairman (left) with deputies Maria Weber and Gerd Muhr (Photo: dpa)

Woman trade unionist on DGB board for the first time

Heinz Oskar Vetter, the Chairman of the Confederation of West German Trades Unions (DGB), will retain his job at the head of the largest organisation of this kind in the country for the next three years. At the ninth national congress in Berlin the 54 year-old union leader was almost unanimously re-elected to his post.

Vetter received 424 votes. Only four voted against him, with fourteen abstentions. Vetter was elected to the Chairmanship in May 1969 in Munich as the successor to Ludwig Rosenberg with 267 of the 427 delegates' votes. Only twenty voted against him and 133 abstained.

A woman is in the DGB leadership for the first time ever. She is Maria Weber, who, along with Gerd Muhr, was elected Deputy Chairman. Maria Weber, 52, follows Bernhard Tacke, who did not stand again for reasons of age.

Herr Tacke and Maria Weber were formerly representatives of unionists with a Christian Democrat leaning on the DGB committee. Maria Weber received 284 votes for, Gerd Muhr 410.

A decisive factor in favour of Maria Weber at the elections was her background among the Christian Democrats. But it would be doing her an injustice to claim that she was elected to replace Herr Tacke simply because it was necessary to end the political dispute and propose a Christian Social unionist once again. Her capabilities and willingness to work for the union movement have been undisputed for some time.

With all due respect to Bernhard Tacke we can be sure that this miner's daughter from Gelsenkirchen will not follow too closely the paths he has marked out.

Her experience as the Chairman of a workers council in a major chemicals company will stand her in good stead at the head of the DGB as well as her twelve years' experience in high places in trades union circles.

Taking Maria Weber's place on the nine-strong executive committee will be trade unionist Martin Heiß who also has a Christian Democratic background. He received 240 votes. He was formerly the deputy chairman of the textiles trade union.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 28 June 1972)

DGB's 1972 policy programme

KielerNachrichten

Short-term aims of the DGB, the Confederation of Federal Republic Trades Unions, were set out in the "1972 Policy Programme" which was passed by the ninth national DGB congress on 28 June in Berlin. DGB Chairman Heinz Oskar Vetter put the motion drawn up by the Committee to the national assembly.

The DGB plans are summarised under thirteen headings and range from the demand for shorter working hours and longer holidays, less uncertainty over jobs, higher loans and salaries to more worker participation in decision-making, better old-age provision, equality of education and better advanced career training schemes.

This campaign of action replaces the previous one dating from the eighth national congress in Munich in 1969. For the first time the DGB has taken a stand on the environment.

Among the DGB claims are the following:

– An eight-hour working day and five-day week with full wage adjustment.
– A yearly holiday totalling at least six weeks for health's sake.
– A greater share in company profits for the worker as well as guarantees that the firm will make social welfare provisions via a negotiated contract or legal channels.
– Additional holiday pay as well as a thirteenth monthly salary.
– Abolition of disadvantages affecting workers in capital accumulation schemes as well as participation of the work force in production assets.
– Guarantees of full employment.
– A fluid age of retirement for the over-sixties.
– Old-age pensions as a rule amounting to three-quarters of salary on retirement.
– A qualified say for workers in the running of the country's economy as well as the affairs of the EEC where international companies are concerned.
– Introduction of stringent anti-pollution measures and stiff penalties for those who pollute the environment.

Herr Vetter spoke of the right of the unions to share responsibility in all matters of State, society and the economy. Amid applause from delegates he said that the dignity, liberty, self-determination and responsibility of the working man must be assured. He said: "The more united we are in our approach the greater will be our influence on all political procedures."

He added that anyone who thought of "acting against the best interests of the work force in this country for motives of tactics or egoism should think twice before doing so."

Herr Vetter said that organisational considerations should not be allowed to prevent the strengthening of the unions and the extent of their power. The sixteen member unions should not, he said, treat their number as a taboo. In this connection he mentioned the link-up with the White-Collar Workers (DAG) and other organisations as well as the plan for founding a union for the mass media.

He considers a media union essential "to counter the growing domination of the media by vested capitalist interests and give the progressive socially minded publicists air time."

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 June 1972)

■ COMMON MARKET

The Common Market is a boon for consumers

Bremer Nachrichten

There has been an above-average rise in the standard of living in the Federal Republic and the whole European Economic Community since the Common Market treaties first took effect fourteen years ago.

The range of goods available to the 180 million consumers in the Common Market countries has increased considerably and quality has improved because of fiercer competition.

Private spending within the Common Market more than tripled between 1959 and 1971 (+211 per cent). Even making allowances for the decline in the value of money, private consumption rose in this period by 96 per cent. These growth rates are considerably higher than in comparable industrial nations such as Britain or the United States.

These benefits are confirmed by a European Commission report on competition which also deals in part with consumer issues. The report points out the extent to which private consumption has changed in the last ten years or so.

More than half of all private expenditure went on food and clothes in 1959. Today it is less than forty per cent. Spending on service industries, leisure-time activities, transport and communication has increased.

The European Commission believes that competition is an important factor in increasing the efficiency of the economic system and encouraging growth and general affluence. Consumers did not only want the range of consumer goods to be increased – they also wanted continual improvements in quality. The Commission is doing all it can to protect the consumer and provide the information needed to make him an expert buyer.

The report deals at length with the price rises for consumer goods in member countries. There are still considerable differences in some prices from country to country but they are not necessarily out of keeping with the general idea of integrating national markets.

These differences will probably continue to exist as they are usually due to the structural differences between the various national markets such as differences in incomes, taxes and consumer habits.

But if these discrepancies result from infringements against the provisions for competition embodied within the Common Market treaties, the Commission promises that they will be eliminated by an energetic policy of competition.

The Commission states that several hundred distribution contracts were altered last year to conform to the Common Market rules on competition and restrictive export bans were removed in another 120 cases. Price differences in products such as meat, textiles, vacuum-cleaners or records are negligible anyway.

The Employers Association welcomed the publication of the first Common Market report on competition and hopes that the appropriate political conclusions are drawn from it. Continual intensification of competition policy seems necessary. The control of competition must be tightened up considerably and consumer information – an important condition for adequate competition – must be considerably improved.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 3 July 1972)

EEC recommends standard notice for workers

Notice given to a working person dismissed from his job should be a standard minimum of six weeks in all EEC countries. The age of the worker and his period of service with the firm should be given special consideration at severance. A forty year-old should be able to expect notice of at least three months, a fifty year-old a minimum of six months.

These recommendations have been made by an EEC investigating committee which looked into the conditions for the protection of workers in all six countries.

The growth of the EEC countries into a single labour market requires standardisation of various measures adopted in the individual countries to protect workers who are dismissed. Working people should not become victims of economic and technical progress.

Rationalisation measures, mergers and changes in production methods are the main reason for redundancies. It is essential to find a compromise between the demands of workers that their job should be secure and the interests of employers who wish to have a free hand in personnel matters.

In the investigation that is designed to act as a basis for discussion the EEC Commission has suggested that in all countries written notice of dismissal should be required. In the Federal Republic and the Netherlands at present verbal dismissal is possible. Furthermore detailed reasons should be given why the employee's services are being dispensed with.

In Brussels it is regarded as insufficient simply to inform the representative of the work force or the trades unions. Genuine consultation is necessary, they feel, not only on the reasons for dismissal, but also on measures to prevent redundancies becoming necessary.

Special protection is being called for elderly working people, the handicapped and members of workers councils. Mass redundancies should only be possible under special circumstances.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 June 1972)

The Common Market's image

Politicians are obviously finding it difficult to increase public awareness of the existence of the European Economic Community. The holiday season has just begun but how many had the feeling of still shopping on the home market when travelling to one of the other Common Market countries?

The political frontiers still exist and customs officials stand astride them. Of course, things have become easier as many customs officials no longer try to make the foreigner feel foreign. But the main feeling engendered so far by the European Economic Community is that it increases prices.

Things are not that simple of course – claims to the contrary would be more correct. But the fact that consumers believe that the Common Market drives prices up shows that the Community is not selling itself well enough.

One person to have realised this is Sicco Mansholt, the Common Market President. He has called upon the foreign ministers of member countries to end all controls on holiday traffic within the Community.

He also believes that the citizen of any of the Common Market countries should have free access to educational institutes, schools and universities throughout the Community.

A sort of Common Market civil rights charter should also be drawn up, he believes, to grant political rights, such as a right of suffrage in local elections, to the growing number of people living in another Common Market country.

But the various governments are proving petty. It took long, painstaking negotiations at ministerial level before the rules allowing for easier holiday traffic were adopted at the beginning of the present holiday season. It seemed as if the various ministries thought that every private traveller had the idea of lugging tons of coffee along with him. As welcome as the new concessions are, they demonstrate that we are still a long way away from a truly common market.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 July 1972)

Press reform Bill

Continued from page 4

any changes are made in the structure of the concern, in ownership or in the top editorial positions.

But some restriction is once again imposed on this ruling: "An exception can be made in individual cases when intolerable consequences are feared for the publisher or third party and outweigh even the justified interest of editors in notification."

Hartmut Palmer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 June 1972)

Foreign Ministers confirm present currency system

At their meeting in Luxembourg the Finance Ministers of the Common Market countries decided to retain the present system under which the exchange rates of European currencies with the American dollar can vary within certain limits.

Developments on the currency market will show whether the Ministers have, for the time being at any rate, encouraged confidence in the planned Common Market monetary union and, what is even more important, international confidence in the American dollar.

Suspicions that the American dollar is no longer the stable reserve currency of the Western world were first voiced in May 1971 when the Mark was floated. The dollar was devalued in December but it has been under pressure again since the pound was floated.

Western Europeans are faced by the difficult choice of continuing to support the dollar by forcing their central banks to buy dollars when it is in danger of devaluation and thus "import inflation" or allowing the dollar to drop further in value by floating all the Common Market currencies. But this would make the situation worse for exports from the Common Market countries compared with the United States and other countries.

The present system of variable exchange rates as the beginning of a Common Market monetary union could, if it continues, ensure secure conditions for trade, at least in the heart of Western Europe.

International currency crises would not then necessarily endanger the employment and affluence of millions of people living in the Common Market countries, not even in the long term.

The sacrifices that the Common Market countries and in particular the Federal Republic will probably have to make to support the Italian lira in the near future are therefore politically justified.

Time will tell whether the present European currency system will be able to cope with an increased inflow of dollars. This will not be the last currency crisis by any stretch of the imagination. Western Europeans must therefore try at all costs to retain a secure currency system to uphold their economy.

Erich Hauser

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 28 June 1972)

EEC countries seek a joint foreign policy

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Considerable differences of opinion over the future foreign policy of the European Economic Community exist at present among members of the European Commission.

The main issues are the relations between the Community and the United States and the Common Market's policy towards developing nations, especially the poorest of them.

The differences of opinion were sparked off by Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, the man responsible for the Common Market's foreign relations. Dahrendorf wants the Commission to work out a political basis for a number of decisions that the Community will soon have to make.

Three main groups have formed in the Commission on this issue. Dahrendorf believes that the Community should pursue liberal policies. Priority must be given to the forthcoming negotiations on removing barriers to trade. Relations with the United States would retain the key roll.

But the French members of the Commission in particular have a number of reservations against this liberal policy which places so much emphasis on the United States. They would prefer a harsher policy.

Sicco Mansholt, the Commission's President, also warns against too close a relationship with the United States, though for completely different reasons. Mansholt believes that the forthcoming trade and currency talks should no longer be attended by the industrial nations alone, as the earlier Kennedy Round under which the developing countries were practically excluded. The needs of the Third World should be a central issue of the forthcoming talks.

But Mansholt fears that the Common Market would surrender its role as a recognised partner of the developing nations by associating too closely with the United States. Mansholt wants Common Market development aid policy to give priority to the really poor Third World countries.

Dahrendorf on the other hand points to earlier Commission memoranda dealing with the problems of the poorest States and claims that priority should be given to countries about to play a full part in world trade.

Dahrendorf proposes extending the general trade preferences for developing countries to agricultural products as well as the industrial goods they now cover.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 June 1972)

■ FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Karl Schiller defeated on currency measures

The most important of the decisions taken by the Cabinet on 29 June was the introduction of compulsory licensing of the acquisition of fixed-interest securities by foreigners. This decision was taken at the behest of Bundesbank President Karl Klasen and against the wishes of Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Karl Schiller who views the move as the first step towards dirigism. The basis of this decision is provided by §23 of foreign trade legislation of 1961, article 4 which allows restrictions to be imposed on the acquisition of securities by foreigners.

In the present international monetary concert there were four instruments the Federal Republic could choose to play:

– Tightening up *Bardepot* legislation
– Using Article 23 of the foreign trade law
– Floating the Mark
– Raising the minimum required bank reserves.

Professor Karl Schiller, the Economic Affairs and Finance Minister, approved toughening up *Bardepot*. This means that loans raised abroad become so expensive that speculators lose interest. When finance is imported in this manner now *half* the sum must be deposited at the Bundesbank at nil interest.

Paragraph 23, which Bundesbank President Karl Klasen and some Cabinet ministers favoured in opposition to Schiller, tends towards currency exchange controls.

Raising the minimum reserves on deposits made by aliens in Federal Republic banks to 100 per cent means that the same sum as is deposited speculatively must be deposited at the Bundesbank with nil interest. This makes prospects of a coup negligible.

Floating the Mark results in the money that has been sent into this country for speculative purposes going begging, since exchange rates are no longer supported by the Central Bank and float up or down according to the normal laws of supply and demand. When supply is too great the exchange rate hits rock bottom.

Floating, *Bardepot* and raising reserves are all measures that without doubt correspond to the criteria of a free enterprise economy. The question is whether application of these measures would be sufficient to block the flood of hot money coming into the country.

Though floating would certainly have the one desired effect there are considerations that prevent the Mark being floated at the moment.

European Community countries have agreed that they will not float because this can have a damaging effect on common agricultural policy, and the divergence of European currencies after a floatation could be the last straw.

With the prevailing imbalance of currencies a floating Mark would be bound to float upwards and the state of the Federal Republic economy is not yet such that it could stand a quasi revaluation which would hit exports.

A very effective, perhaps totally effective, but potentially dangerous way out of the mess would be the introduction of currency controls. The facts of this move cannot be hidden behind a front put up for the forthcoming elections with slogans such as: "Now we're bashing the speculators."

Professor Schiller is not entirely wrong in arguing against the application of § 23 in that its partial application could act as a appetizer followed by a gradual paralysis of the free traffic of goods and services which a growing economy requires and which is an essential part of the guarantee of full employment.

Paragraph 23 of the foreign trade laws regulates the capital and cash deposits of foreigners in this country. It can cut back trade between the Federal Republic and other countries if levelled against foreigners who plan to buy real estate, ships, companies, securities or foreign exchange from the Federal Republic.

These are all ways in which foreign money comes into the Federal Republic. Application of § 23 would almost completely block the influx of foreign money. This might be useful in controlling the inflationary amount of money in circulation but it would throttle the supply of capital that is essential for a flourishing economy.

In the very worst instances this could lead to subsidiary companies of foreign concerns no longer being able to obtain money from the "parent" company back home. A Federal Republic branch of an American firm, for instance, might find vital supplies of capital for investment cut off. This could lead to short-time working or even redundancies.

Gert Tigges

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 30 June 1972)

Bonn's financial decisions in a nutshell

The following are the currency policy decisions taken by the Bonn government on 29 June this year

I. The Federal government confirms the Washington agreement for the realignment of currencies of 18 December 1971. Bonn will continue to fulfil all obligations arising from this agreement. The currency exchange guidelines or parities fixed at this conference will be adhered to. Further, the Bonn government is in full support of the results of the deliberations in Luxemburg on 26 June 1972.

In addition to the measures already in force to protect the Federal Republic economy from outside influences in the spheres of money and the transfer of capital (the ban on interest for accounts held by foreigners in this country of 9 May 1971 as well as the *Bardepot* – cash deposit – regulations of 1 March 1972) the Bonn government has made the following provisions:

II. The government agrees with the proposal for a twenty-second amendment to the foreign trade regulations. The amendment is to strengthen the effectiveness of the *Bardepot* regulations. The major points are:

– Reduction of the amount free from this regulation from the present two million Marks to 500,000.
– Introduction of compulsory registration of the monetary transactions involving foreigners.
– Subjection of the sales of bearer bonds and registered bonds to outsiders to compulsory registration until the stage when the amendments to foreign trade legislation have created the legal provisions for making these bond sales subject to the *Bardepot* regulations.

III. The Bonn government understands and accepts that the Bundesbank plans to raise the *Bardepot* rate to fifty per cent as a result of an agreement reached with the Economic Affairs and Finance Minister.

IV. Bonn requests the Bundesbank to use all the powers at its disposal to influence finance houses to impose restrictions on overseas investments.

(Handelsblatt, 30 June 1972)

Government tightens up controls on foreign investors

In the first five months of this year foreigners bought fixed interest bonds in the Federal Republic valued at 4.500 million Marks, thirteen times as much as in the same period of last year.

Latest figures from the Bundesbank indicate that the value of fixed interest bonds in circulation in these five months was 21 milliard Marks, which was almost as high as the all-time record set up in 1971.

The abnormal increase in the total amount of trading with new fixed interest bonds can largely be explained by this increase in foreign purchases of bonds. These purchases have brought a flood of extra cash into this country and thwarted all attempts to stabilise the Mark.

Directly and indirectly these foreign purchases have brought the highest and undoubtedly most inflationary new indebtedness on the Federal Republic capital market which, and this is most important, has boosted the funds available for public spending and created a boom in house building with a large increase in mortgage bonds.

In truth preventing the sale of bonds to foreigners is much more momentous than it at first appears. Mark loans to foreigners have also been subjected to compulsory registration. This makes it very complicated for the layman to understand.

This large-scale business in bonds as Mark loans to foreigners was in the past something that the Bundesbank wanted to encourage, since it normally meant an outflow of money, which was desirable.

It is only recently that the picture has changed dramatically. Now it has become obvious that Federal Republic first takers for these Mark foreign loans – as a rule banks and insurance companies – are to a great extent reselling the stocks to foreigners, which is another source of cash flowing into this country to inflate the amount of money in circulation.

Mark foreign loans with borrowers from as far apart as Scandinavia and Singapore, Yokohama and Johannesburg, in fact all over the world, qualify as foreign securities. This large-scale resale of them by German first-takers to foreigners has led to their being subjected to compulsory registration as well.

When estimating the scale of these transactions guesswork is essential. But certainly they are the main reason why total transactions in securities with other countries have flooded another 4,500 million Marks into the country. In addition, in the same period, seven million Marks are said to have flowed into this country with the aid of the overall business in securities over and above the amount that has flowed out. This shows the inflationary effect of these dealings in securities that have now been subjected to compulsory registration.

These figures do not take into account international dealings in shares. The reason is that share transactions play a far less important role, and in-comings are just about cancelled out by deals the other way round.

But with the approval of these stringent measures against sales of Federal Republic securities to foreigners the first step has been taken along a strait and narrow path. It ends in exchange controls.

When a source of inflation is dammed by compulsory measures of this kind the bulkheads open for a new source and new stringent measures become essential.

At the moment there is a grave danger that there will be a chain reaction with no foreseeable end so that at each turn the authorities have to impose new controls. This would be most damaging to the West German economy, which is so dependent on foreign trade. This country would be more drastically affected than others by each barrier thrown up.

Professor Schiller has felt up till now that he must avoid this. But a majority of the government overruled him and backed up Bundesbank President Karl Klasen.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 June 1972)

'Bardepot' and Paragraph 23

Cash deposit legislation involving the foreign contacts of Federal Republic companies will make it more difficult for these companies to raise loans abroad when interest rates there are lower. *Bardepot* is like a punitive interest rate. Its aim is to make foreign loans more expensive.

Federal Republic companies that want to raise loans abroad will have to deposit at the Bundesbank fifty per cent of the amount they wish to raise and will receive no interest on this money.

The measure is tempered by a number of exceptions and initial sums (at the moment two million Marks) that are not affected, so its effects are imperfect. Nor does is go so far as to make foreign loans as expensive as loans raised in this country at the high Federal Republic rate.

The main shortcoming is that the legislation does not encompass foreign loans involving shares quoted on the stock market. This legislation must be tightened up and made to bite harder.

Unlike the mild *Bardepot* legislation, that to a limited extent leaves the market free and does not prohibit the raising of loans abroad, paragraph 23 is a stringent measure verging on dirigism. In order to bolster the balance of payments the Bonn government can limit transactions between companies based in this country and businesses abroad, under certain circumstances: recompense of domestic securities by aliens, acquisition of exchanges for a monetary consideration issued or accepted by a West German and involving an alien, acceptance of a loan or other credit and upholding an account of a foreigner by a finance house in the legal-tender area of the Mark and the payment of interest on such an account are the factors that must be involved. Paragraph 23 thus involves "negative exchange controls".

(Die Welt, 28 June 1972)

■ MODERN LIVING

Environment exhibition in Stuttgart

Münchner Merkur

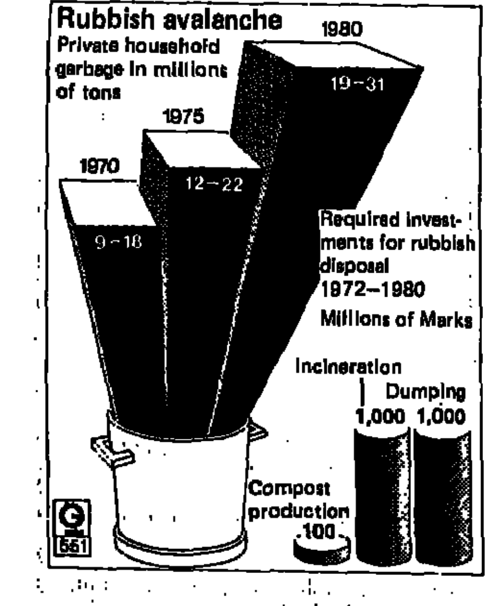
Conservationists in Stuttgart and the Federal Republic can point with justified pride to the Baden-Württemberg state capital's month-long "Environment 72" exhibition, a meeting-point for specialists and members of the general public linked in a common cause, anxiety about the world we live in.

At enormous financial and organisational cost the Federal and state governments, Stuttgart city council and the Killesberg exhibition grounds holding company have joined forces to produce the first comprehensive presentation on environmental protection.

Half a million people will, it is hoped, visit the exhibition from all over the country, gleaning information and culling ideas in the capital of Swabia and the South-West.

"Environment 72" is a war waged on three fronts, the epithet comprehensive being taken seriously. It is, of course, a trade fair but due attention is paid to science and research.

On the trade side customers and buyers are exposed to the sales patter of turnover-conscious industrial concerns. This commercial aspect prompted one visitor to the fair to comment wrily that "First they build machines that make a mess and when the money no longer rolls in they construct new machines to clear away the mess."



On the more serious side specialists from thirteen universities in this country and abroad spent a week in Stuttgart discussing the pros and cons of environmental measures.

Fifty-three papers were delivered and a succession of round-table talks and discussions held, attended by more than 1,000 participants. So much interest was shown in the congress that tickets were sold out a fortnight before the exhibition began.

The most expensive and attractive exhibit was nonetheless the information display in Hall 6, the centrepiece of the entire exhibition.

This display was referred to by Oberburgomaster Dr Arnulf Klett as a bold attempt to comment on environmental policies.

All the means at the advertising industry's command, ranging from multivision to Heinz Hirscher's garbage art, are deployed to appeal to and generate environmental consciousness.

This at any rate was the declared aim of an exhibit that cost roughly 2.3 million Marks, a million of which were provided by the Federal and state governments and the city council.

Stuttgart's environmental trilogy was designed to shed light on the extent of pollution and work in progress to redress the balance. Engineering, science, industry and the Federal and state governments were all consulted and they all came and exhibited an arsenal of weapons currently deployed on the environmental front.

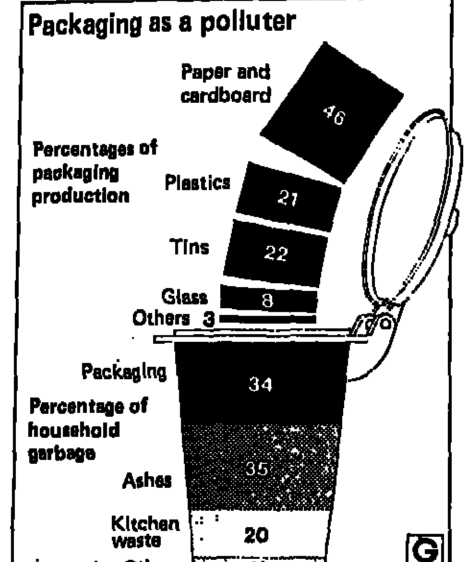
When the exhibition comes to an end at the end of July the organisers sincerely hope that as a result of the two years' work they have devoted to preparations many more people will show greater knowledge and critical understanding of environmental problems.

Environmental pollution, one of the byproducts of civilisation, has so far caused only a few small fringe groups of society sleepless nights.

With this sad fact in mind the two and a half acres of Hall 6 were devoted to an attempt to interest the public at large in environmental protection and allied topics. Environmental conservation must, it was held, become a mass movement.

Despite banner headlines in newspapers and magazines the general public at present lack detailed information on the subject – and you can hardly be genuinely outraged at the state "Spaceship Earth" is in if you do not have the details at your fingertips.

At the same time not everyone is a



skilled engineer so the exhibit was designed to provide visitors making a two-hour circuit of the Hall with the most important items of information.

"We had to reduce entire works of non-fiction to a paragrraph or a headline," Franz Zeithammer, 32, a journalist specialising in environmental topics who was commissioned by the exhibition organisers to handle the information package, commented.

Together with two architects he virtually designed the Hall 6 exhibit singlehandedly. His problem was not only that of graphically illustrating the degree of pollution of rivers in this country but also of assembling exhibits and even wielding a hammer and nails.

The outcome of what he chose to call the ordered chaos of pre-exhibition planning can only be termed a masterpiece. As visitors walk round the exhibit they are confronted step by step with the situation, for better and for worse, and the prospects of forthcoming developments.

The first of thirteen pavilions starts with the theme of the Stockholm UN conference ("We only have the one Earth") and subsequent displays deal with the atmosphere, water, noise, garbage, nature conservancy and sectors dealing with new engineering and technological developments.

For the duration of the exhibition Stuttgart municipal health department transferred its laboratories to the exhibition grounds and the Federal government set up a pavilion of its own dealing with the international aspects of environmental protection.

Environmental protection has been introduced as part of the school curriculum. Artists have provided their impression of the subject and everywhere, in charts, drawings, photos and cartoons, facts and figures are bombarded at visitors.

The information is carefully dosed and arranged so as to ensure that the visitors do not throw in the towel in dismay. On their way round the hall there are film shows, drinks and points where they can stop and take a breather for a moment. Information must be coupled with entertainment.

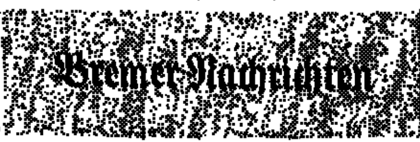
The environmental show is an experiment for the exhibition authorities in a number of respects. A great deal of thought was devoted to planning with the aim of not plunging into the red.

Environmental protectionists wonder, of course, whether they will have succeeded in mobilising people or whether visitors will merely have been attracted by the spectacle and largely ignored the message.

It also remains to be seen whether 3.50 Marks per adult was not too high a price to pay at the door. Takings at the turnstiles will certainly prove some indication whether or not the exhibition has been the hoped-for success.

Wolfgang Breitner
(Münchner Merkur, 3 July 1972)

Polluters should foot the Bill, President Heinemann maintains



President Heinemann feels that people responsible for environmental pollution should foot the bill. In a telegram sent to the organisers of "Environment 72", the Stuttgart exhibition that is the largest of its kind ever to be held in Europe, the President stated that it would be up to Federal, state and local authority legislators so to amend existing legislation and regulations that the issue of responsibility was clarified once and for all.

Bonn Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who delivered the opening speech in Stuttgart on 30 June, issued a warning against the belief that environmental problems can be solved at one major attempt. He reiterated that industry must not improve profit margins at the expense of the environment.

This, he added, would be economically unsound, since environmental protection measures that are neglected end up by being more expensive than the cost of action in the first place. The Minister appealed to the younger generation to show interest in environmental protection.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 1 July 1972)

Firefighting fair in Frankfurt

Fire brigades can now speed along more than 150 miles an hour. [An] inventive manufacture of chemical extinguishers has mounted two extinguishers on the roof of a 60,000-Mark, 335-hp power Maserati.

The brick-red "Fire Hunter" with additional 15,000 Marks' worth of fire-fighting equipment is one of the exhibits at Interschutz, the international fire-fighting and emergency corps exhibition in Frankfurt. The sales slogan is, surprisingly, that it is the fastest fire-fighter in the world.

This international fire-fighting gathering was officially opened by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bonn Minister of the Interior. It is a nine-day mammoth display of fire brigade progress.

237 domestic and foreign manufacturers have everything at the ready that could possibly be needed to protect the public from fire risks and natural disasters, devices ranging from remote-controlled extinguisher missiles to fifty-ton fire engines developing 1,000 hp power.

Interschutz is designed to demonstrate to this country's 800,000-odd firemen and their millions of colleagues in other countries what technological progress can mean for each and every one of them.

Progress is linked with only one drawback – in the opinion of one fire brigade spokesman at least. It is too expensive. This country boasts 23,400 volunteer fire services, 64 full-time fire brigades and

Nordwest Zeitung

171 works fire squads. Many of them are abandoning chemical and foam extinguishers and reverting to common or garden water, which is tried, trusted and a good deal less costly. The old-style fire brigade is a thing of the past, Interschutz nonetheless proclaims. If manufacturers have their way bucket chains and ladders will give way to computerised fire-fighting.

Remote-controlled extinguisher missiles are able, so it is claimed, to put out aeroplane blazes in seconds. Wankel rotary engines and gas turbines are gradually replacing conventional piston engines.

A Cologne firm, for instance, manufactures a fire engine for airport use that can disgorge 18,000 litres of water and 2,000 litres of foam before running out of the original contents of its tanks. It weighs fifty tons – the equivalent of 66 Volkswagen Beetles with fuel tanks full – and costs 990,000 Marks.

Fire brigade ladders are now available extending to a height of up to sixty metres, or little short of 200 feet. But, as one fireman wondered, "who on earth is going to clamber up to that height?"

Fire damage is estimated to cause more than 1,000 million Marks in direct losses to the economy every year. The struggle against it is to be waged not only with improved techniques but also with new colours.

Fire engine red, one paint manufacturer claims, is over and done with. The firm reckons to have experimentally proved that newly-developed fluorescent colours are five times easier to spot in traffic than the conventional paint. Fluorescent fire engines will thus be less likely to run into accident trouble.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 26 June 1972)

■ SCIENCE

Professor Wilhelm Hallwachs and photo-electric cells

Frankfurter Rundschau

When you approach the door of a department store or the first step of an escalator machinery is set in motion as if by an invisible hand. The door swings or slides open and the escalator trundles into action.

On closer observation the invisible hand is seen to be a photoelectric cell. It consists of the cell on one side and a small electric lamp on the other. The cell is coupled with a relay circuit.

When a leg interrupts the beam of light across to the cell an immediate change is registered in electric conductivity, the relay responds and sets into motion an electric motor that operates the door or whatever.

The physical phenomenon here involved, amounting, as it were, to a conversion of light into electric power, is known to science and technology as the photoelectric effect.

Its discovery 85 years ago was of enormous significance even though this importance was not suspected at the time. Yet the name of the man whose discovery it was is as good as unknown to the general public.

A few days before Christmas 1887 Dr Wilhelm Hallwachs, a young lecturer at Leipzig University, submitted to *Annalen der Physik*, the renowned specialist journal, a contribution in which he drew fellow-physicists' attention to a strange discovery.

In his Karlsruhe radio wave experiments Heinrich Hertz had observed that the "jump" of a flash of electricity is rendered considerably easier by the employment of ultraviolet light.

Hallwachs had devoted closer attention to this phenomenon and discovered that an insulated statically charged metal plate spontaneously sheds its charge on being irradiated with short-wave light.

He already suspected that invisible free electric particles are liberated from the illuminated metal surface. These particles were subsequently identified as electrons.

Not until 1899, however, did Philipp Lenard in Heidelberg prove that Hallwachs had been right. Not long afterwards Lenard noted two most remarkable recurring factors in the process.

The energy (that is to say, the speed) of the liberated electrons is determined solely by the wave-length (colour) of the light employed, whereas the intensity of the flow of light determines only the strength of the photoelectric current (the number of photoelectrons).

What initially appeared to be an amazing experimental fact was in 1905 lent an impressive theoretical explanation by the young Albert Einstein who, working on Max Planck's quantum hypothesis, proved that light consists of tiny portions of energy. This was the work for which Einstein was subsequently to be awarded the Nobel Prize.

A single electron is liberated by a solitary quantum of light, or photon. Einstein also pointed out that this photon must contain sufficient energy to liberate the photo-electron from its association with the metal and that the photoelectric effect only occurs up to and including a specific colour in the spectrum. There is, therefore, an upper wavelength limit.

This represented a decisive step forward in scientific knowledge. Not only had a precise link between light and electricity – energy and matter – been established; Einstein's explanation for the Hallwachs effect also gained general acceptance for Max Planck's idea of the unstable quantum transmission of energy in Nature.

The foundation-stone of modern, quantum physics had been laid.

A long way was to go, however, before Hallwachs' primitive experiment gave way to modern, industrially manufactured photoelectric cells that react to long-wave visible light up to and including infrared.

The photoelectric cell also outstrips the human eye by far in its incomparable inertia. One need only recall the playing of a film soundtrack.

With the aid of a photoelectric cell intermittent light can be converted electrically into sound and music. A further, albeit extremely complex development of the photoelectric cell is the TV tube.

A TV camera contains thousands of microscopically small mosaic cells on to which the light photo, converted by the photo cathode, is projected in the form of an electric charge photo.

An electron beam generated along the lines of the Braun tube passes over the mosaic cells and transmits the impulses.

Wilhelm Hallwachs, born in Darmstadt in 1859, did not survive to see for himself the beginnings of television. The assistant and son-in-law of F. W. Kohlrausch in Würzburg, he held a university appointment in electrical engineering for seven years before being appointed to the chair of physics at Dresden technical college in 1900.

He died in Dresden on 20 June 1922 a privy counciller and one of the grand old men of applied physics in Germany.

Ernst H. Haux
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 June 1972)

Centres to monitor electromagnetic storm waves

An international storm location network is to be established with the aim of shedding light on the physical processes that lead to the generation of electrical energy in storm "cells."

New equipment has been installed at centres in Berlin, Bonn and Weissenau, near Regensburg, Washington, Buenos Aires and Toyokawa to locate the atmospherics caused by electromagnetic storm waves over distances of up to several thousand kilometres.

The equipment has been developed by the Heinrich Hertz Institute in West Berling with the financial support of the Federal Republik Research Association and is designed to shed light on the development and directional tendencies of storms and to record their intensity and duration.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 2 June 1972)

■ THE PRINTED WORD

A printer's error made literary history

Ernst Theodor Wilhelm Hoffmann, an appeal court lawyer, died 150 years ago in Berlin at the early age of 46. He is better known as the much-read author E.T.A. Hoffmann — thanks to a printer's error on the title page of his first book.

Hoffmann was born in Königsberg on 22 January 1776. His family had long lived in East Prussia and had academic traditions. He studied law at the local university, passed his examinations with flying colours and entered State service in 1795.

After working for the government in Königsberg, Glogau and Berlin, he was promoted and sent to Posen in 1800 before being appointed a privy councillor in Warsaw — then belonging to Prussia — in 1804.

Hoffmann was small in stature and not very good-looking. However he was not just an excellent lawyer. He was also a man of society who brightened up the gay provincial atmosphere everywhere he went because of his wit and high spirits.

His high spirits and disrespectful sarcasm often got him into trouble but they never seriously endangered his career as a government official. This danger only became acute during the age of Napoleon. Prussia collapsed, robbing Hoffmann of his public office, income, home and all career prospects. At that time he was also affected by the death of his only child.

In this situation of collapse Hoffmann was saved by his artistic talents which he had previously only pursued as a hobby. Bamberg Stadttheater appointed him conductor, theatre composer, stage designer and assistant director.

When the Bamberg theatre also foundered in these stormy times he relied on his literary talents to keep him above water. He worked on almanachs and periodicals until 1813 when he was appointed conductor in an acting troupe in Dresden and Leipzig.

Prussia re-appointed him to State service after its restitution in 1815. It only took him a few years to climb the ladder from Justice Ministry official to member of the appeal court.



E.T.A. Hoffmann (left) with his friend the actor Ludwig Devrient at the Lutter and Wegener Cafe in Berlin — a painting by Themann (Photo: Historia)

His days were now spent at work, his evenings with friends and social occasions and his nights were devoted to his creative talent. Writing now ousted music and painting as the centre of his interest.

But he did not endure this strain for long. He became seriously ill in 1819, recovered temporarily, had a final relapse and died after months of pain on 25 June 1822.

On his death he was one of the most-read German writers of his age but his popularity did not last long. People were always aware of his unique nature but they did not judge it extraordinary in the real sense of the word.

Instead they looked upon it as curious in the less flattering sense. They even went so far as to banish him from the narrow realms of poetry to the broader sphere of "elevated entertainment".

It was only towards the end of the century when German creative writing ground almost to a halt that people once again began to realise his extraordinary talents as a writer.

By this time his work had travelled the globe and gained the approval of critics all over the world. But it also had an influence on other authors that can be compared only with that of Goethe despite other German writers such as Schiller, Jean Paul and Heinrich Heine.

German literary scholars would have found it presumptuous to mention Hoffmann's name in the same breath as Goethe's. But it is impossible to deny Hoffmann's influence on Balzac, Musset, Nodier, Baudelaire, Maupassant, Gogol, Dostoyevsky, Lesskov, Dickens, Wilde, Stevenson, Edgar Allen Poe and very many other, younger writers.

It can be said without contradiction that nineteenth century literature would have developed differently if there had never been an E.T.A. Hoffmann. He is therefore a figure of the highest importance in literary history.

So many professors were unable to accept this fact and raised many ifs and buts when his name was mentioned. It is only since the beginning of this century that Hoffmann has been accepted as a great writer.

His name is now included in the list of the great men of letters. In the last 25 years there have been six editions of his complete works, indicating that Hoffmann, after years of oblivion and late recognition, will be a constant acquaintance of ours for many, many years.

John Halding

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 25 June 1972)

Bookmen revise organisation of trade association

The book trade's conference in Darmstadt provided an impressive display. It should not be forgotten that publishers had prepared the ground well with the "Kranichstein talks" but booksellers too are now gradually coming to realise the urgent need for cooperation, either amongst themselves or with publishers, as their journey to Darmstadt demonstrated.

Many people probably still remember the book trade's black day on 18 October last year when a motion to change the statutes of the *Börsenverein* was dismissed. Advocates of the change were so certain of victory that most of them did not attend the meeting but carried on business at the Frankfurt Book Fair. A small number of conservatives voted against the motion and rejected it.

But the 1971 losers had turned up in Darmstadt. The statute change was approved by a very large majority. The Börsenverein is now a pure manufacturers' association, a move that should have been taken a long time ago.

The personal membership system previously adopted was hardly in keeping with a modern economic organisation. Small firms were often outnumbered by the large firms whose many representatives were able to exert considerable influence on important decisions.

Under the new statute each company has only one vote and must decide which of its representatives is entitled to cast it in the main assembly and special committees.

The main assembly was opened with the good news that the Federal Labour Institute had announced that it would donate a cheque for 1.7 million Marks as a contribution to the expansion of the bookseller's training college and to the construction of the urgently needed vocational college.

But various news items about the association's peace prize were not so gratifying. Controversy did not surround the potential prize-winners but the expense of the whole affair.

The prize-winner receives ten thousand Marks and the ceremonial banquet held at the Frankfurter Hof hotel costs another sixteen thousand Marks. It is hard here to speak of social responsibility. It is to be hoped that chairman Ernst Klett and the reform commission appointed by him will soon put an end to this scandal.

New reproduction processes are now used to copy scientific treatises or a number of pages from a book. Sometimes as many as five thousand copies are made but nobody controls the reproduction of material which is after all still covered by copyright.

Ministries in Bonn also like to make use of this cheap method. One subject of debate justifiably asked what the difference was between pirate printers and the ministries.

One group calls for literature to be nationalised while the other speaks of a need for information that must be satisfied. The result is however the same. (Ministries in Bonn have now declared themselves prepared to pay for what they copy.)

Following the lead of the writers, booksellers too have proclaimed the end of the age of modesty. What this means is that the book trade is looking for a new image.

This presupposes the fact that it catches up on its arrears as far as information is concerned, that it considers itself to be one of the main sources of information and that it produces literature as well as distributing it — without the masochistic pleasure of painfully serving the cause of culture by making a loss.

Helmut M. Braem

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 June 1972)

Mergers shake up structure of the book trade

A wave of mergers spread through the Federal Republic publishing world during the sixties. Old established concerns like Rütten & Loening, Marion von Schröder, Claassen, Goverts, Krüger, Steingruben, F.A. Herbig, Langen-Müller and S. Fischer all changed hands; some more than once. Concentration seemed to be the future destiny of the publishing world.

Concentration in the retail trade came almost overnight in 1970. The Montanus chain was formed, arousing the response of the French-Swiss Recontre group, Bertelsmann and Kurt Lingenbrink with plans to set up chains or branch organisations.

Heated debates were sparked off in specialist publishing journals and the literary sections of the dailies and weeklies. Concentration was thought by some to mark the success of economic common sense in the book trade, others saw it as a danger for the freedom of literature. Controversy did not die down until it was seen that things were not turning out so badly as forecast.

What is the state of affairs in the publishing world today? You can almost count on the fingers of one hand the few publishers who deal in the bestsellers that bring in vast sums of money after vast sums of money have been spent on advertising.

But capital and size alone do not determine whether a concern is to be successful or not. Bertelsmann-head Reinhard Mohn suffered for years from his personal trauma that the name of his concern did not crop up on bestseller lists all that often until he fetched Olaf Paeschke — the man who made a bestseller of Hildegard Knef — from Molden Verlag to Gütersloh to work wonders. And as things look now he probably will.

Georg von Holtzbrinck had had success in the newspaper world (*Christ und Welt, Handelsblatt* and *Saarbrücker Zeitung*) and with book clubs before building up a publishing empire. He owns S. Fischer and the Goverts/Krüger/Steingrüben group and has shares in Rowohlt and Droemer-Knaur of Munich.

Despite premature obituary notices, medium-sized publishing companies are managing to hold their own alongside the giants of Bertelsmann and Holtzbrinck. You only have to think of names such as Diogenes, Piper or Suhrkamp/Insel. There are also the Hanser and Luchterhand publishing company that are linked with specialist publishing companies and therefore have a foot in two camps.

Observers of the publishing world who were mainly interested in fiction have come to realise that the publishing system is like an iceberg. Fiction is only the one seventh that can be seen above the surface.

While all the talk was about the crisis facing the publishing industry, publishers of specialist literature and periodicals flourished. This fact too must be borne in mind when looking at the statistics.

These statistics — the 1970 official turnover tax statistics published by the Federal Statistics Bureau in Wiesbaden — reveal the truth about the publishing world. Between 1962 and 1970 the number of publishing houses remained constant or even increased slightly. The total of concerns liable to pay turnover tax rose from 1,713 to 1,724.

This welcome discovery is seen under a different aspect when some examination is made of how the total turnover is divided between these 1,724 publishing companies.

Between 1962 and 1970 total turnover increased from about 1,800 million Marks the almost 3,500 million but there was a

Continued on page 11

■ THEATRE

Kroetz' new play examines non-communication



One of those interminable public opinion polls on salaries, sexual habits and the like among certain strata of society found one working man who spoke right from the heart when he said: "The students have it all right. At least they can talk to their women."

The wisdom of this sentence is the theme of plays by Franz Xaver Kroetz, namely the total lack of communication and inability of people to articulate their feelings and intentions and to describe their relationship to their partner in words.

The content of Kroetz' *Stallerhof* is reduced to the formula of a popular newspaper headline: 'Old farm-worker assaults his employer's backward child.' Kroetz delves into what might lie behind such a sensational report, which does not seem designed to achieve any effect except arouse repulsion and anger — he finds the misery of being subject to one's urges, the social, mental and physical ties of existence.

Beppi, the fourteen-year-old girl has something wrong with her eyes and her parents have had glasses prescribed for her. They do not cost anything and in our society a small physical failing of this kind is taken as being normal and forgivable. But Beppi is also backward, and this a great source of shame for her parents.

We are only given hints of what his girl had to suffer in the way of taunts and how she needed love. The girl became a complete loner. She is almost dumb. The only things she can say are a few set phrases, the confession and a few proverbs.

The farmer, looking for some form of society. He has been a vagabond and has not been able to form relationships with women. Half drunk at a fair he rapes Beppi. She takes it all without protest. And there is none of the roisterous roll-in-the-hay attitude to sex as in folk plays where the rape is stylised with the powerful nature boy romping in the ricks with the reluctant virgin.

Kroetz shows mercilessly an unemotional performance of the sex act with the two partners suffering pain as much as lust.

Helplessness and uncertainty lead to an unconsidered, pointless and often violent action. Remains of tormented humanity are in danger at all times. The mother does not resort to a primitive attempt at abortion and the father checks his original intention of wiping out the sin by killing the girl, but whether or not such crimes are perpetrated is often just a matter of chance and the circumstances of the moment.

Another point that Kroetz shows up very well is how the dumb flee to realms where speech is not demanded and answers are not required. The girl turns to the animal kingdom. The psychically distorted human being approaches the animal kingdom more and more.

The farmer, looking for some form of revenge on the farm labourer, kills his dog. When the labourer is thrown out he grieves more for the dog than the girl.

Kroetz' depiction of reality is merciless and uncompromising. It does not spare the audience or pander to their aesthetic requirements. Any attempt to spare the audience would involve the director distorting the author's intention.

Nevertheless it is difficult to translate this idea to the stage. Turned into a play Kroetz' Naturalist ideas easily fall between the two stools of reality and the illusory world of the stage. This starts with the language. Bavarian dialect is treated in North Germany rather as a ridiculous idiom, a language suited only for farces down on the farm and for telling jokes.

So inability to understand the dialect builds up a barrier straight away. Barriers are also erected by the essential resorting to means of stylisation. At the performance in the "Maler Saal" in Hamburg the stage was just a surface covered with a few bundles of straw and embryonic interior decorations. It extended a long way into the auditorium. It was possible to look in from all sides.

Perhaps it would have been better to use a conventional stage with the audience sitting separated and looking in on the action, since this gives distance and would have made a better job of masking the transfer from depiction of reality to art form.

The laughs and defence mechanisms that came on occasions from the audience underline the necessity of bringing home the conditions of our society, as the play sets out to do.

Carolin Grosse

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 June 1972)



Eva Mattes as backward Beppi in the Hamburg production of Kroetz' *Stallerhof*

Tourneur horror play in Hamburg only horrifies Puritans

Livid light falls on the gigantic bones of the super skeleton which covers the whole of the revolving stage at Hamburg's Deutsches Schauspielhaus. Through the bones of the skeleton debilitated types as from an intriguing Italian princely court dreamt up by the English horror-play writer Cyril Tourneur in 1607 clamber, hop and slide.

His *Revenger's Tragedy* is a confused rendezvous of poisoners, vampires and bastards, and it serves director Claus Peymann as material for a *Moritat* on the deep-rooted rottenness of the world.

No expense has been spared in this production. The colossal skeleton alone cost 100,000 Marks and apart from this giant rats scurry across the stage, vultures with flickering red eyes circle over skeletal remains and the make-up artists have produced some horrifying features.

The revenger, played rather *sotto voce* by Vadim Glowna, does a clean-up job among the powerful and their toadies and in the end he finds himself Heaven-bound with a rope round his neck.

Before this the revenger has killed a duke, but the wrong one, who has his innocent fiancée on his conscience. Her skull, poisoned needless to say, is kissed by the lascivious old man. Then a dagger pierces his tongue, nailing him to the spot, so that he is forced to watch in silence his bastard son's incest with the duchess.

The other sons are caught up in the battle for succession and come to a gory end. One is beheaded by a completely naked female executioner, the others pop off one by one in the closing scene in which the gigantic skeleton begins to revolve amid shrill noises.

Wilfried Minks, the stage designer, is not the only prominent name in this Hamburg dance of death.

Marianne Hoppe plays the lewd harridan of a duchess; Christoph Bantzer is her cunning offspring Lussurioso, Margret Hohmeyer plays a shameless matchmaker of a mother. All the trappings of good seventeenth century horror theatre are there, brutal warders, voluptuaries, beadles, elegant "playboys" and hideous cripples. And yet the outcome is flat beer that has been obviously standing around for the past 350-odd years.

Cyril Tourneur was presented to Hamburg audiences as a clandestine and dreadful genius, but appeared as little more than an epigonal Elizabethan hack — Elizabethan hacks were themselves passé in their time. Shakespeare's genius still rules the world of drama today and yet none of his successors was blessed with great genius. The likes of John Webster and John Marston sank to levels of tastelessness that prompted the Puritans to get all the theatres in England closed in 1642, although there were political aspects to this decision.

This Hamburg production was well calculated. Violence is the thing of the day and playing with the horrific is regarded as modern. The recipe might have been: Take a snobby outsider such as H.C. Artmann as translator, add blood, corpses and base obscenities, mix together and make an intellectually tired out show.

Josef Dahmen as Antonio, the successor to the Duke, got the greatest applause of the evening when he stood at the end amid a heap of bodies and recited passionately: "What a difficult season. What unrest in this house!" There was a good reason for the passion in Hamburg. The Nagel era has not yet got off the ground.

With such expenditure and a prominent cast it should have been a good evening of horror in Hamburg. But no one today gets terribly worked up about a few bodies. We seem to have come quite a long way since the Renaissance. We have enough Lussuriosos of our own. The occult spectres of a long-dead Englishman cannot hold a candle to real-life horrors from Vietnam to Burundi.

Of course we don't know how our Puritans will respond!

Hans Kirchmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 June 1972)

Continued from page 10

considerable shift in the share of the market held by each publisher.

Sixty-two companies — only 3.6 per cent of the total number — register more than half the total sales, or 54 per cent to be exact. As many as 1,265 publishing companies or 73.4 per cent of the total had no more than a 9.3 per cent share in sales.

These figures are no cause for alarm. The small or one-man publishing house has always played a role in this country and there has always been a large number of them.

What does arouse attention is the fact that publishers of all sizes have registered a drop in sales — even those medium-sized concerns with a turnover of between one and ten million Marks a year. It is only the group of 62 large publishers with a turnover of more than ten million Marks a year that has been able to increase its share of the market — and this by eighteen per cent.

Ehrhardt Heinold

(Die Welt, 29 June 1972)

A colossal skeleton dominating the stage in *The Revenger's Tragedy* given at Hamburg (Photo: Rosemarie Clausen)

■ EDUCATION

Pediatricians congress discusses difficulties at school

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Difficulties at school – a subject discussed at this year's South German Pediatricians Congress in Munich – affect intelligent children as well as those whose low intelligence quotient indicates that attendance at a special school for the backward would be advisable.

Though poor intelligence has a detrimental effect on a child's performance at school, this does not mean to say that all poor performances are due to a low intelligence quotient. It is estimated that only one child in five who is given treatment because of his difficulties at school is indeed of genuinely poor intelligence.

H. C. Thalmann of Reutlingen examined 150 seven to ten-year-old schoolchildren in order to gain some information about the type, frequency and causes of behavioural disorders.

A team of psychologists interviewed every one of the schoolboys and graded them according to a five-point scale. It was found that almost twenty per cent of the children had obvious behavioural disorders while almost thirty per cent were moderately affected.

Almost forty per cent of the children suffered hyperactivity or found difficulty in concentrating. Twenty-six per cent did not sleep properly while about 23 per cent suffered nervous headaches. Nineteen per cent of them had a lot of trouble reading and writing.

Children tend to be more likely to suffer behavioural disorders if their birth was complicated. Delays in a child's physical and linguistic development can also lead to tardy mental development.

But on the other hand these psychologists found that the method of feeding and the sanitary training that the child receives seem to have no obvious influence on its behaviour.

Children who are incapable of learning – so much so that even the modest demands of the primary school are way beyond them – are however in a minority. Statistics show that about three to five per cent of a schoolyear need to consult a doctor and two per cent need to attend special schools. But as a million children are born in West Germany every year, this means that seventy thousand of them are affected by behavioural disorders.

Leaving these children out of the issue, most of the difficulties a child experiences at school can be summed up under the aspect of a "psychology of failure", according to psychologist Rolf Heinz Lückert.

Lückert told the Munich congress that while success usually awakens and strengthens interest, failure almost always has a detrimental effect on performance. Failure can only have a beneficial effect on emotionally stable children who come from moderately happy families and are popular with their classmates.

Some children are fearful about their school performance, Lückert continued. They are especially fearful when they have to work independently. They do not know how to face serious situations such as examinations without failing.

But when teachers help, children at least feel that their need of dependency has been satisfied, Lückert claimed. Fears of examinations then have little effect.

The failure of an individual child is anything but a matter concerning the child alone, Lückert added. School performance is an important status symbol in a child's first four years at school. Poor performances damage popularity.

Lückert finished off by saying that divergences from the norm only appeared confused and irrational when seem in isolation. In the wider context of human relations they could be an adequate mode of behaviour, in some cases indeed the only possible reaction in a complicated human situation.

Peter Strunk, a children's psychiatrist from Freiburg, stated that parents usually only consulted doctors after their children's difficulties at school were so serious that a solution could only be found with great trouble and with considerable mental strain for the children themselves.

Situations of this kind could be avoided in many cases, Strunk believes, if enough preventive examinations were made on children in kindergarten, on children beginning school and on those in their fourth year there. Provision is made for this by law but there is a shortage of both money and personnel.

Another feature of prevention is the increasing number of children with a temporary post-traumatic brain damage resulting from an accident. In the last six months alone about one hundred children attending the child psychiatry ward of Freiburg University Hospital as out-patients have been found to have a brain trauma that surgeons thought serious enough to merit neurological and psychiatric examinations.

Strunk warned against sending children back to school too early after head injuries had cleared up even if they seemed to have recovered. School was work, he said, and made demands on the children.

A doctor must be consulted as soon as failure at school becomes evident. He will be able to decide whether the child's drop in school performance can be attributed to permanent factors.

Doctors will prescribe children of poor intelligence a change of school above all else, though this must be undertaken carefully that the child does not get inferiority complex with the further damage that this can cause.

Some children are talented but easily diverted and so find homework a torment. Speakers at the Munich congress showed that doing homework in a neutral environment could work wonders.

Psychotherapy can be employed when failure at school is only a symptom of a more serious conflict. But, Strunk claimed, there were cases where there was no need to treat the child. Instead, psychotherapy should be employed on the parents.

An example of this is when parents have a pathologically intensified urge for higher social prestige and demand that their children should attain a status which is far above their capabilities.

The greatest of caution must be exercised when prescribing psychopharmaceutical products despite the hopes parents sometimes pin on them. Although examples of partial success are always appearing in the press and medical journals, Strunk stated, only very few of the examinations really satisfied strict scientific requirements. All attempts to improve a child's mental performance through these drugs have failed in the past, he claimed.

But when children are nervous, irritable and easily diverted though otherwise of normal mental ability, there are good prospects of restraining them to a certain extent with drugs, thus helping to correct their performance.

The call for tranquillizers, Strunk added, was justified in temporary situations of stress in which the child reacts with fear, insomnia or fits of crying. The doses must be kept small.

Doctors should also discuss the problems of such procedure with parents and ask them whether it would not be better for the child's maturing process to allow it to face up to the stress under expert educational guidance.

Psychopharmaceutical substances will never offer doctors and parents the opportunity of putting a quick and trouble-free end to children's failure at school. *Christa Stew...*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 June ...)

New developments to advise school-leavers on careers

The Nuremberg-based Federal Institute of Labour is obliged by law to give neutral, objective career advice and is prepared to spend a lot of money in carrying out its duty.

It has now invested about one million Marks in a newly-developed written method of preliminary advice – the Systematic Training and Evaluation Programme (STEP). Questionnaires and check-lists more than one hundred pages long demand four hours of intensive work from the user.

Over ninety thousand high-school leavers a year have to decide whether to go on to further education institutes or get a job. Ninety per cent of them have chosen to study up to now despite the entry restrictions imposed on the number of students in some subjects and despite obstacles such as inadequate finance. Only ten per cent want a job immediately.

Labour exchange officials responsible for high-school leavers have too much work. Their appointments book is crowded and they have too little time to advise the often undecided school-leavers.

The necessity of individual career advice has now been recognised and the quantity and quality of advisers is being improved all the time. All advisers have graduated from university and there are also plans for them to attend a special three-year course at Mannheim University.

Career advice can only be effective if the school-leaver has taken the trouble to find things out for himself before attending his interview. Information is supplied by a number of periodicals and pamphlets. Lectures are also organised and officials visit schools.

STEP is now to step forward and help end a situation in which one student in two does not know what profession to choose.

STEP was tested in Stuttgart and areas in Rhineland-Palatinate and the Saar in 1971. Over seventy per cent of the high-school year came into step. The findings were used to improve the questionnaire which is now being issued to eighty thousand school-children.

The four sections of the questionnaire are meant to give school-leavers as much information as possible that could affect their decision. By first giving standardised information, individual career advice should prove more effective.

There is plenty of variety to prevent the school-leaver from growing tired and surrendering at the thought of having to do four hours of paperwork. The overall information is divided up into a number of easily manageable units. Constant checks are built in to ensure that the school-leaver is still concentrating and taking in everything that is written.

Two large sections deal with planning a profession or course of further education. Important information is intermingled with banal reality: "Remember that minorities – for instance a woman looking for an influential appointment as an economist – always have to reckon with difficulties. But this does not mean that they should abandon their plans." School-leavers are also asked whether they think it important to earn as much as their father.

"Being able to judge oneself on the

DIE WELT

basis of specified situations," STEP reports, "lessen the dangers of a person wrongly evaluating his capabilities. This applies to both over- and underestimation. Self-evaluation is then more closely oriented to the demands of the world around."

The section on "Choice of profession, educational and social factors" is meant to make the individual aware of the social dependencies of the process of choosing a profession.

The school-leaver should ponder on these social dependencies in order to estimate their importance for his decision. If his findings conflict with previous plans, the scheme's organisers hope that he will be aware of this and demand further information to solve the problem more adequately. The only pity is that the specialist mentality is always involved even when solving conflicts of this type.

The section on information is meant to clarify the importance of the level of information for the process of decision making and point out other ways and means to obtain information.

Data about universities is also included. The school-leaver is given a summary of subjects offered and details about the various universities. He is told their geographical position, their size, special conditions and regulations concerning entry restrictions.

When the school-leaver has worked his way through to page 83 he comes to the last section – "Realisation of Educational and Professional Plans". As career training usually finances itself, STEP concentrates on study costs and gives guidelines. It does not conceal the fact that the grants system is inadequate.

It also states that the restrictions on the number of students admitted to some faculties are a result of mistakes in past educational planning. Too little money was provided for building universities, STEP claims, and it is those who want to study today that suffer. *Werner Hopp...*

(Die Welt, 20 June 197...)

■ MEDICINE

Victimology – the new science of the victim-prone

Frankfurter Rundschau

Some people are frequently robbed, molested or the victim of other forms of criminal activity. This is not so coincidental as it may appear. It has now been proved scientifically that people can be victim-prone.

"Criminals and their victims go together like the focal points of an ellipse," Dr Clemens Amelungen of Neuss states and he should know. He is one of the few lawyers who have intensively studied the extremely young science of "victimology".

Dr Amelungen, a judge at a court of appeal, summarises the aims of victimology in the medical journal *Fortschritte der Medizin*. "We can only fight criminals by taking away their potential victims and we can only protect victims by gaining an insight into their weaknesses," he writes. "We must therefore know them, paradoxically, before the crime that is to be prevented."

Dr Amelungen classifies the special links between criminals and their victims under a number of aspects:

- Victims of time

A person is in particular danger before important appointments or events. The best examples of this are an approaching wedding, an extra-marital pregnancy or the final day for paying debts or insurance premiums. "Confusion and despair make people susceptible to being victims of crime," Dr Amelungen comments.

But one's person and property is also subject to greater danger on rest days and during holiday period. Many people are robbed between Friday evening and Saturday night or are involved in fights or perhaps murdered – usually after hitting the bottle.

- Victims of place

Confidence men and tricksters often look for their victims in fashionable holiday resorts and health spas. The seclusion of islands encourage criminal peculiarities. Capri for instance is considered a centre for homosexuals and the offences typically committed by them.

- Victims from isolation

Eccentrics and outsiders attract criminals. Children playing alone are as much in danger as old people living alone and withdrawn from the outside world.

- Victims by profession

Clerics, teachers and doctors often fall victim to the temptation of committing sexual offences or doing a person grievous injury. People who have to deal with money in the course of their job and those who have to travel around professionally and often change their place of residence are likely to fall victim to crimes of robbery and murder.

- Victims of one's own character.

Victimology shows that greedy people often get caught by other people's schemes. People who enjoy life are in great danger because of their great expectations. Extremely aggressive types provoke counter-aggression through their behaviour and this can often end in criminal acts.

One astonishing fact is that victims tend to fall victim a second time. A person who has once been conned does not learn the lesson.

This is the sector where the science of victimology sees its most important role in future. By investigating the characteristics of victims, it hopes to counter the danger of a person falling victim a second time.

This aim is being taken very seriously throughout the world. This is proved by the fact that lawyers, criminologists and doctors from a large number of countries plan to meet in Jerusalem next year at the first International Victimological Congress. *Ladislaus Kuthy/PAM*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 June 1972)

Too much idleness on holiday is bad for you, doctors claim

Kieler Nachrichten

Medical opinion claims that three days of idleness in a holiday lasting a minimum of three weeks are more than enough to allow the body to recover from the strains of the rest of the year.

The time after this period of laziness should be taken up by physical and mental activity though this should not degenerate into hastiness, speed or noise, it was stated at a recent congress in Munich.

ADAC, the motoring organisation, invited five hundred doctors to the city to discuss how a holiday should be planned and organised correctly. One person in four claims to come back from his holiday dissatisfied.

Professor W. Schmidt-Kessen blamed this low holiday success rate on false ideas of sun worship. Heart patients and people suffering from circulatory disorders could be threatened by too much sun and heat, Professor H. Jungmann of Hamburg claimed.

Professor Jungmann recommended people with heart and circulation complaints to take their holidays in the medium-altitude sub-Alpine mountains of Central Europe. The Alps could only worsen the condition – even on a brief visit such as crossing a pass.

This is also true, Professor Jungmann said, of swimming in the Mediterranean and particularly in the tropics. Bathing in the North Sea and the Baltic should also only be done in moderation.

Small children and babies should not be taken on holiday because of their increased susceptibility. Professor J. Ströder of Würzburg made specific mention of the digestive disorders which affect children.

Professor W. Schulte of Tübingen reported some people's inability to recover from the strains of everyday living during their holiday. This could only be cured by psychotherapy, he stated. Many people, especially those suffering from strain as a result of work, could not recover despite fatigue and the many opportunities of recovery offered.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 19 June 1972)

Gerontological Association meets in Munich

Professor René Schubert, head of the West German Gerontological Association said at a recent congress in Nuremberg that he viewed gerontology as an inter-disciplinary science.

Sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists and experimental gerontologists all make their contribution, he stated. The help of gero-pharmacologists is now assured as well and this is indispensable.

Up to now doctors have prescribed drugs and medicaments for elderly patients on the basis of past experience. Age, Professor O. Gsell of Basle stated, does not alter the effects of pharmaceutics. But where pharmo-kinetics is concerned, old age causes a number of remarkable peculiarities that have not yet been subject to very much examination.

The most common preparations taken by elderly patients are purgatives, sleeping pills, tablets to improve the circulation and vitamin pills. When various drugs are taken at the same time, as usually happens, one of the substances can always increase, decrease or even eliminate the effects of the others. Professor Schubert stated that the elderly diabetic could serve as an example because of all the tablets he had to swallow.

When a patient of this type suffers from rheumatism, his doctor will prescribe for him one of the standard preparations to counteract the pain. But these drugs can smother the diabetes preparation in the metabolism and the patient can slip into a critical state.

Cellular alterations often occur after taking preparations that old peoples are given to spare them a daily injection and sometimes to ensure that they will gain a constant supply of the drug (old people do not always obey doctors' orders). The substances' effects on cells linger on even after they are excreted from the body.

This effect must be taken into consideration when other preparations are prescribed. Doctors already know about one hundred drugs that should not be used concurrently in case they jeopardise the success of medical treatment.

But thousand of medicaments could have an effect of this kind. We shall have to get used to the fact that we shall probably never know for sure what combinations of drugs should not be allowed, Professor Schubert commented.

Psychologists should give gerontologists information about non-medical treatment for the elderly. Professor Ursula Lehr of Bonn had many important points to make on this subject.

Chance discoveries have led to the over-generalised view that old people are no longer able or willing to learn. Good intentions are no use. But Professor Lehr has found evidence to counter this view:

- If the elderly are given sensible material, their learning performance can be compared with that of younger people.
- Poor learning is more a sign of insecurity than fading ability.
- The elderly find it easier to take in carefully-arranged material.
- Practice makes perfect even among the elderly.

The willingness to learn and remember material is particularly significant. Professor Lehr states that situations free from fear encourage successful learning.

There is a greater chance of eliminating a person's bad habits if some effort is made to recognise and strengthen his good qualities. *Ottmar Katz/PAM*

(Münchner Merkur, 27 June 1972)

Alcoholics under 40

Blue-collar workers and female white-collar workers are particularly susceptible to alcoholism – the Central Bureau Against Addiction Dangers announced in Hamm that 45 per cent of the blue-collar workers treated and 40 per cent of the female white-collar workers were addicted to alcohol.

Fifty per cent of alcoholics needing out-patient treatment are between 26 and 40. A total of 30.7 per cent are between 41 and 50. Alcoholics in the age group between 51 and 60 make up 11.1 per cent of the total. Among young people, 7.1 per cent of those treated were registered as alcoholics.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 23 June 1972)

Foot illnesses

Over seventy per cent of all West Germans suffer from foot complaints, Walter Schievink told the annual general congress of the Orthopaedic Shoemakers Guild in Kiel. This can be attributed mainly to tight shoes, high heels and thin soles.

But German feet have not improved despite the fashionable trend to wear broader shoes. Most people can no longer walk properly because they drive too much. The hard surface of city streets also place excessive demands on the feet, congress was told.

Evidence that the number of foot complaints is increasing was provided by the fact that one and a half million special soles for people with bad feet are produced in West Germany every year.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 26 June 1972)

TV delivery

Fathers-to-be in Hildesheim now have the opportunity of watching their offspring being born on a television screen. The audio-visual department of Hildesheim College of Education has helped instal a camera into the labour ward of St Bernward's Hospital allowing births to be shown on a screen in the next room.

The scene can also be transferred to video-tape so that the parents will later be able to show their child the conditions under which it was born.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 22 June 1972)

Snuff – the safe way

As snuff comes back into fashion, a prominent scientist has stated that, of all methods of tobacco consumption, taking snuff is the least dangerous. Compared with pipes and cigars, it is the lesser evil, Professor Ferdinand Schmidt, head of Heidelberg University Research Station for Preventive Oncology, claims.

Snuff also has the important advantage that it lacks the carcinogenous carbohydrates that do not form until tobacco is burned. Nicotine consumption is also lower. Past examinations have shown that the nicotine level in the blood of snuff-takers is no higher than that of non-smokers and has no effect on blood pressure.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 June 1972)

Patent medicines

Consumption of pharmaceutical products in West Germany rose once again last year. Pharmaceutical wholesalers registered a thirteen per cent rise in turnover compared with 1970.

David Saupke, chairman of the board in a leading West German pharmaceutical wholesaler concern, Andreae-Noris-Zahn, claimed that this was due to the growth of incomes, the rise in the average age of population and people's increased interest in health matters.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 June 1972)

■ OUR WORLD

Sauerland's *Rutschbahn* at Fort Fun

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

The world's longest Rutschbahn (summer bobsleigh track) was recently opened at the Sauerland Holiday resort Fort Fun. The resort is in the middle of the Sauerland and can be easily reached from the Cologne-Kamen autobahn and by any number of Federal arterial roads. The best route to take is via Meschede through Bestwig and from there in the direction of Wasserfall.

The Rutschbahn extends from the summit of the 731-meter high Stüppel into the valley. From the restaurant at the top it is possible to look out over the Sauerland mountains before the visitor decides to make a run down the Rutschbahn which is three-quarters of a kilometre long. There are on the Rutschbahn no fewer than 17 right and 21 left curves.

The Rutschbahn's base is made of a mat of synthetic fibres. Hand-operated brakes make the descent quite safe at speeds that reach 25 kilometers per hour.

The run was opened by the junior champions for the two-man bobsleigh, Udo Quick and Willi Wahle along with Gabi Klinger, toboggan champion.

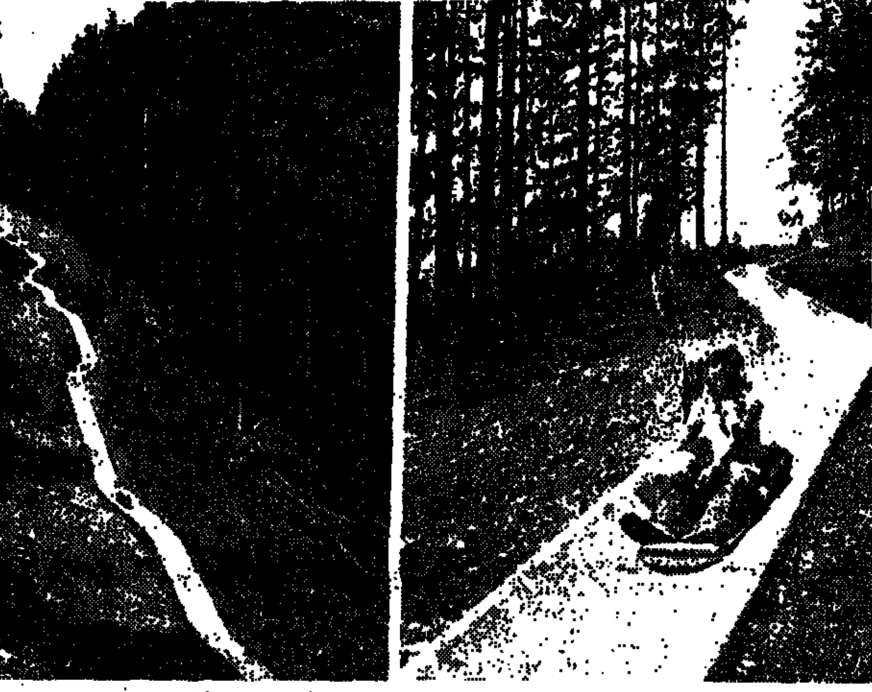
The weather was not very kind on the opening day. Representatives from the Federal state government in Düsseldorf made an appearance and despite the clouds and the rain showers everyone had a good time on this unique run.

Karl Freiherr von Wendt who has built the run and who owns the Fort Fun pleasure resort explained that he had difficulty getting firms and research units interested in such a project.

Finally Karl von Wendt found the partners he required at Demag, the giant heavy industry organisation. Despite any number of difficulties that cropped up during the construction the project was completed on time.

A Rutschbahn of this type for use in summer would be an interesting development for ski resorts that already have ski-lifts for winter sports. Karl von Wendt is able to use his ski-lift all the year round. There is no period when it is standing idle.

And what else could follow on from the Rutschbahn? — perhaps there could be championships. The installation is already available at Wasserfall and without any doubt the guests to the holiday resort will take advange of this facility — as well as visitors to other parts of the Sauerland.



The summer bobsleigh track in the Sauerland (Photo: DEMAG)

The Fort Fun resort has a lot to offer summer and winter visitors. Beautifully located in the forest there is a camping site which can accommodate 300 caravans. There are also any number of hunting lodges and holiday bungalows on rental.

If visitors want to give a barbecue they can call up the resort's "Party Service" and everything is laid on.

The resort also invites visitors to tour the beauty spots of the Sauerland in a covered wagon drawn by two cart horses.

For horsemen and women or those who want to learn to ride mounts can be hired. At the Schloss Gevelinghausen stables there is a riding hall and a paddock for dressage riding as well as a series of jumps. There are two riding masters in attendance for those who want to try horse-riding for the first time.

Siegfried Ihle
(Handelsblatt, 29 June 1972)

Language lessons for foreign waiters provided in Düsseldorf

Foreign waiters should be able to learn enough German within eight days to bring customers what they order and not veal when they have ordered a herring, according to a statement made by the international information centre for the restaurateurs association in Düsseldorf.

The crash German course, concentrating on 1,000 words, is made available by a language training centre for foreigners. At the present seven people, Turks, Greeks and Spaniards, are taking the course free of charge. The head of the course, Kurt Janig, says that future participants in the course will have to pay 10 Marks for each hour-long study period.

Hulya Tacha from Instanbul repeated what she had heard from the headphones. "Mr Muller goes to the factory." Hulya Tucha wants to work in a hotel to earn money to pay for her boyfriend's studies.

Kurt Janig said: "Turks find it fairly easy to learn German." After eight hours of language study in the laboratory the Spaniards showed that they of all the rest had the most difficulties with the German language.

The training course for foreigners is only one of the activities that the international information centre promotes.

The extent of the training offered includes courses for apprentices up to management level. People who already run a pub and married couples can take part in the courses designed to train people on how to run efficiently and profitably a bar or the like.

The courses are available for people from all over the country. The training establishment cost 20 million Marks. The centre, whose courses are recognised by most official bodies, is run by twelve staff members. It is soon hoped to extend the scope of courses to include on the spot feasibility reports on how to run a hotel.

Hans-Werner Loose
(Die Welt, 27 June 1972)

Luxury hotels for Poland

Luxury hotels are to be built in Poland according to a surprise announcement from Timmendorf. Günter Lütgen, vice-president of the Maritim group, said: "The contracts are due to be signed at the beginning of July. We have presented detailed plans and these have been accepted by the Poles."

This newly established hotel group has beaten American organisations to the punch by offering much more favourable terms. Three hotels are to be built.

It is proposed to build a 1,000-bed hotel in the middle of Warsaw with connections to the airport. The project allows for additional accommodation if required. At Zakopane, the winter sports resort, it is proposed to build a 600-bed hotel five minutes from the centre of the city. The hotel will be beautifully located with the Carpathians in the background. The project includes an artificial lake that can be used for iceskating in winter.

At Zoppot a 600-bed hotel is to be built along the shore which can be used as a congress hotel following the example of the many-faceted Maritim project at Timmendorf.

All the hotels are to built up to what has come to be called the Timmendorf Standard, meaning international standards as regards buildings, furnishing, service and cuisine. The Poles find this just to their liking. They want to take over the management of these hotels and have the staff trained by Maritim staff either in Poland or the Federal Republic.

The Federal Republic firm is to provide capital and maintain supervision of the building operations. The Timmendorf organisation will maintain connections with the project via a marketing-management contract. The Poles will pay an annual rent, which will later include profit-sharing.

The hotels are expected to appeal not only to tourists from both the West and the East but also Polish exiles living in America and Austrilia.

Günter Lütgen said: "We have already had bookings from the US. The whole project has excited considerable interest."

(Kieler Nachrichten, 23 June 1972)

Pay top-flight sportsmen, Willi Daume urges

Olympic supremo Willi Daume [...] called for regular pay for top-fl[...] athletes. In a speech to Kiel co[...] delivered in the context of this year's [...] regatta he advocated an all-round re[...] of amateur qualifications.

Top-flight athletes, he said, must [...] paid according to their performa[...] Competitive sport as it is today is not [...] opposite of industrial society b[...] reflection of life as it is now lived.

Top-flight athletes, Daume conti[...] are obliged to have their bodies [...] ready in a most "unsocial" manner [...] can only reach the very top by [...] work comparable only with full [...] sional training or a university educ[...]

If they are to have equal opportu[...] promising athletes must be provide[...] some means of making their way to [...] top independently of social factors.

Willi Daume would thus like to [...] considerable extensions to the fina[...] assistance programme of the Sports [...] Foundation. His demand was rated [...] tional but it was not the first time Da[...] had pleaded for a reform of the am[...] charter.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 7 June 1[...])

The elderly's fear

Eighty elderly women between 6[...] 75 who have their own homes [...] who are dependent on social security [...] their income were the subject of a s[...] contucted by the Hygiene In[...] attached to Mainz University.

These women come into contact [...] doctors and probably more often [...] social workers and all was well so lo[...] no mention is made of an old peop[...] home or an institution for the elderly.

On the second day of the Hygien[...] conference hold in Düsseldorf, Dr Rose[...] R. Brock and Dr Johannes R. Witt[...] lectured on the results of the survey.

One out of every six of these old la[...] was not receiving medical attention [...] though medical examinations reve[...] that they should be receiving me[...] care. The most common malady [...] heart and circulatory diseases, but [...] matism and illnesses to the limbs [...] quite common. Most of them listed [...] questionnaire that they had goo[...] satisfactory health.

It was not that they were not [...] cerned, or that they did not have [...] particularly of becoming a burden to [...] State, that they evinced this subje[...] opinion of themselves, according [...] doctors and psychologists taking part [...] the survey. This fear was common in t[...] approach to daily problems.

Two thirds of the women questio[...] said that despite various disabilities th[...] were quite able to get along, either [...] or fairly well. The others were not so a[...] to manage the day to day problems.

The women had coal burning hea[...] several had no running water in the [...] and several had no sink and in some [...] the toilet was outside the house. Roo[...] and walls were inadequately painted. Most of the homes had between 16 an[...] 25 square metres of living space.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 7 June 19[...])

Academic towns

Of all West German towns, Bonn [...] Heidelberg have the greatest prop[...] tion of graduates amongst their [...] habitants, according to the West Germ[...] Cities Congress statistics on education [...] 59 cities in the Federal Republic.

An average of three per cent [...] inhabitants are university graduates [...] this figure rises to seven per cent in the [...] university towns of Bonn and Heidelbe[...]

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 June 19[...])

■ SPORT

Liberal attitudes to be adopted at Olympic village, Tröger says

"We want to make life as liberal and allow it to develop as freely as possible in the Olympic village in Munich," says Burgomaster Walther Tröger, who from 1 August to 18 September will be responsible for the welfare of the youth of the world in 4,800 flats and apartments on a roughly 200-acre site in the north of Munich, a mere stone's throw away from the Olympic sports facilities.

Built at a cost of 480 million Marks the Munich Olympic village is considered to be the most attractive housing scheme of its kind ever. "Here the athletes can feel at home," Tröger proudly claims. "They have never had it so good, neither in Tokyo nor in Rome nor in Mexico."

Single rooms of up to 156 square feet contain only one bed; twin beds are only to be found in larger rooms. Four to six competitors will live in each flat. In the women's village living conditions are even more favourable.

Even IOC President Avery Brundage had to admit that "You can only be congratulated on this village." Athletes are only five minutes' walk away from the sports facilities and ten minutes from the Underground into town.

Walther Tröger, 43, is Secretary-General of the National Olympic Committee and outlines his views as Burgomaster of the Olympic village as follows. "As far as we are concerned there will not be many restrictions on competitors. It is up to the team leaders to decide. The women's village, too, is separated from the men's village merely by a symbolic fence and not by the real thing."

"We will not be putting up signposts forbidding this, that and the other," Tröger stresses. We will have policemen but they will not be in uniform and in the main we will merely be checking people who enter the village in order to ensure that visitors do not flood the place."

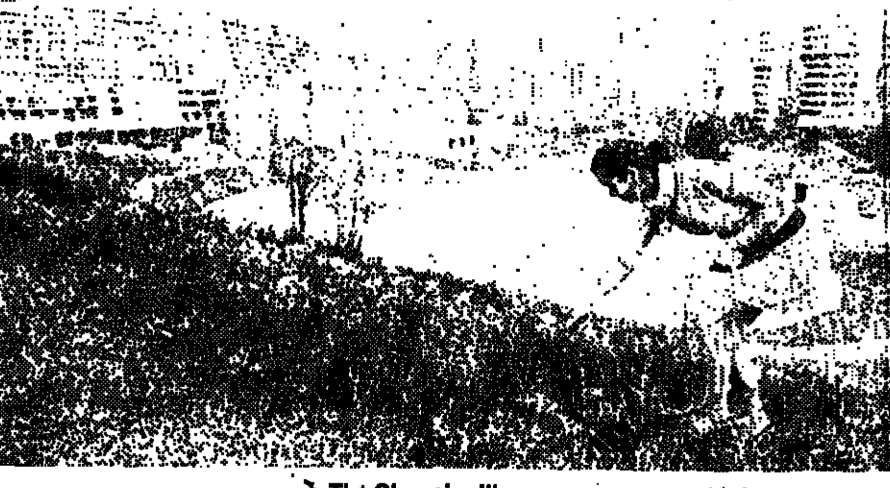
Competitors have plenty to do in their spare time in the village. There is a theatre, cinema, sport, games, dancing and folklore. Outside the environs of the village there will be visits to Munich theatres, visits to Munich people and a variety of tours ranging from Nuremberg and Rothenburg ob der Tauber to the outrunners of the Alps.

Architecturally the village is a text book in stone and concrete. "The task of designing a small town to house between 12,000 and 15,000 people for two purposes — Olympic and post-Olympic — was instructive and delightful in the extreme," architect Erwin Heinle writes.

He and a team of some twenty architects and surveyors spent a year and a half planning the Olympic village, which then took three years to build. The finished product cannot fail to delight both visitor and village-dweller and is unlikely to encounter serious criticism.

The centre consists of three hostels of up to eighteen storeys together with a hotel and a medical centre, the student village and three wings of terraced houses, a small lake with a children's playground, the shopping centre and split-level traffic, with vehicles below and pedestrians overhead.

All in all it is an up-to-date small town and people living here are bound to get together and develop home-town feelings.



The Olympic village (Photo: Conti-Press)

Even though nearly all the buildings are built in light grey concrete they well match the greenery, the reddish-yellow pavement and the flower gardens of the housing terraces.

The village is an attractive example of modern architecture. The eye is very seldom tired. The architectural form, the landscape, the view of Munich and the south-western prospect are marvellous.

There will only be one problem during the Olympics. The student refectory has only been designed to cater for 2,700 people yet it will have to feed 11,000 Olympic officials and competitors.

"We have timed it all with a stop-watch," Tröger says, "and have come to the conclusion that twenty minutes are enough for four courses." He will have a staff of 3,500 aides and 200 hostesses at his disposal should difficulties arise.

His only hope is that there will be no long queues and that athletes will turn up for their meals on time

The Olympic organisation committee has been paying rent for the village since February even though it still does not house a single athlete. By the end of October the Olympic authorities will have shelled out some thirty million Marks in rent.

The post-Olympic owners and tenants will not move in until the end of the year.

Oberburgomaster Hans-Jochen Vogel of Munich had hoped that the Olympic village would provide medium-priced housing for average families but the hope was as far as it went.

The price of freehold flats is not too expensive by Munich standards at 1,800 Marks per square metre but running costs for services are so high that even freeholders will have to shell out the equivalent of the rent of a small flat month by month. Who, the people of Munich wonder, can afford to pay this sort of price?

Herbert Bögel
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 June 1972)

The one-man teams at Kiel – Finn dinghy yachtsmen

Can one man be a team? Yes, provided he is an Olympic yachtsman in the Finn dinghy class. In most other Olympic disciplines each country can enter up to three competitors.

Sailing is considered to be a team event, however, and only one entrant from each country is allowed in each of the six one-, two- and three-man yacht classes. The same applies, incidentally, to oarsmen and canoeists.

The yachtsmen find it far more difficult than the rowing and canoe associations, though, to determine their best man for the Olympics. And a man it invariably is; women do not yet stand a chance.

The wind is a great leveller and even the best of yachtsmen can drop a few points in one or even an entire series of events with the result that he is, as it were, pipped at the post.

It was a touch-and-go business for Willi Kuhweide, this country's most popular yachtsman, in Kiel recently. The champagne his wife had at the ready in Schilksee harbour could only too easily have been scant consolation.

Not until the very last race did he make sure of qualifying as a participant in this autumn's Kiel Olympic regatta in the Star class, in which he is the reigning world champion.

Willi Kuhweide and his co-pilot Karsten Meyer gained the world championship title in a class that is characterised by the five-pointed star on the mainsail and is now the longest-standing Olympic discipline, having figured among the Olympic yachting classes since 1932, off the coast of Venezuela last February.

As the champagne cork popped to celebrate Kuhweide's victory in Kiel Karsten Meyer was forthright in his assessment of the Olympic qualifying contest. "In comparison," he said, "the world championship in Caracas was a walkover."

This can be taken as a compliment to Kuhweide's rival Uwe Mares of Kiel and his co-pilot Kai Krüger of Hamburg.

Mares did not make life easy for the world champion, who still sails for Wannsee, Berlin, but is now a Lufthansa pilot and lives in Kaltenkirchen, near Hamburg.

He had Kuhweide hard-pressed during Kiel Week and in the ensuing qualifying contest for this autumn's Olympics it looked very much as though Mares might outsail the Berliner. In this instance the runner-up's position would have meant the end of Kuhweide's Olympic hopes for 1972.

Kuhweide's placings in the heats were fifth, fifth, first, first, third and first. Mares' were sixth, first, second, not placed, first and second. Since the worst placing is discounted the final race was the decider.

After the first section of the race Uwe Mares was a good 200 yards ahead of Kuhweide. What then happened may be a mystery to Mares but Kuhweide demonstrated the stronger nerves of an experienced Olympic sailor, shortening the distance second by second.

At the finishing buoy Kuhweide was well ahead of his arch-rival. Kuhweide was placed third, Mares fourth and Kuhweide was thus this country's entrant for the Star class in the 1972 Olympic sailing regatta.

It no longer mattered that other yachtsmen came in first and second in the final race and that with his first place Eckart Wagner of Tutzing on Bavaria's Starnberger See relegated Mares to third place overall.

The six best placings out of seven are all that count and Willi Kuhweide had sailed his way to certain Olympic participation with the aid of skilful tactics and evidently perfect technique.

Before switching to the Star, a boat that is a good deal more expensive than, say, a Porsche sports car and was put at his disposal by well-wishers, Kuhweide was a three-time winner of the gold cup and the Finn dinghy world championships.

In Tokyo in 1964 Kuhweide single-handedly won the Olympic gold medal in a Finn dinghy and he now stands a chance of winning another Olympic medal. Forecasts are best avoided in yachting, however, for they can all too easily be disproved by events.

At Kiel Week Kuhweide was overtaken by Jörg Bruder of Brazil, the reigning world championship runner-up, and the American entrant, whoever he may be, will also be a competitor to be feared. The Star boat was evolved in the United States before the First World War and has since been continually modernised.

The Swedes' best man will also stand a good chance of Olympic honours, since Kiel is virtually home ground as far as he too is concerned. And as for the rest, you never can tell. In 1960, for instance, the Olympic Star gold medallist hailed from the Soviet Union.

Who else does this country have to offer besides Willi Kuhweide? The other yachtsman who stands a chance of winning Olympic honours a second time is Ulli Libor of Hamburg, the country's best Flying Dutchman specialist for many years.

He and his co-pilot Peter Naumann did not need to go to any great lengths to ensure Olympic qualification. His greatest rivals were not hoping to pip him at the post and soon gave up, admitting that "Ulli is and will remain the No. 1."

The Olympic qualifying heats in the two-man yawl were quickly brought to a conclusion.

There can hardly be a yachtsman who devotes so much thought to his sport as Ulli Libor. Were it not for Rodney Pattisson of Britain he might even, casting caution to the winds, be classed as the favourite for Olympic gold medal honours. But Pattisson, a born yachtsman, is even faster in the Flying Dutchman.

In 1968 off Acapulco he won the gold and Ulli Libor the silver medal. At this year's Kiel Week the same story was repeated. And in the Olympic regatta? Well, you never can tell, when all is said and done.

At the same time it would be as well to bear in mind Herbert Hüttner of the GDR. He too could win any one of the three medals.

Norbert Wagner, the brother of Eckart, who has never quite made the big time in the Star class, managed to qualify for the Soling class. The issue has yet to be decided in the other three Olympic disciplines, The Tempest, the Dragon and the Finn dinghy. What are their medal prospects? The answer is blowing in the wind.

Albin Molnar, the Hungarian national coach of the Federal Republic Yachting Association, has hopes of two medals, "no matter which." My personal forecast is three.

Alexander Rost
(Welt am Sonntag, 25 June 1972)